





# Businessmen 'gave taxman bribes of sex and holidays'

By TIM JONES

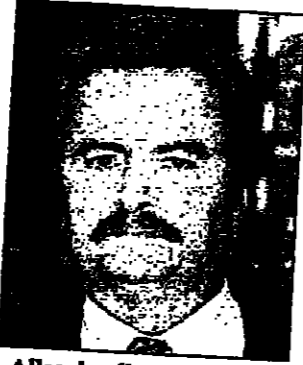
A "MAVERICK" senior Inland Revenue official accepted bribes, including the services of a prostitute, to protect wealthy businessmen from paying taxes, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Michael Alcock, 47, was alleged to have lived a lifestyle far in excess of his £45,000 salary and to have accepted payments of more than £55,000. He headed the Inland Revenue's special investigation office — nicknamed "the ghostbusters" — which looked into the affairs of rich individuals and companies.

Mr Alcock, from Colchester, Essex, denies 13 charges of corruption between June 1987 and October 1992. In the dock with him are two men he was allegedly investigating: Hisham Alwan, 56, from Knightsbridge and David Shamoon, 66, from West Kensington, London — who have denied giving him bribes.

Five men, some Middle Eastern businessmen, "bought" Michael Alcock while he was working in his capacity as a senior public servant. In exchange, he enabled them to avoid investigation of their tax affairs and payments of hundreds of thousands of pounds, John Black, for the prosecution, told the court.

"His arrogance was such that in 1991 and 1992 he went



Alcock: alleged to have taken lavish holidays

on holidays with his family — the accommodation and general expenses paid by way of bribes." In the same years, Mr Alcock "also went on holiday with his mistress", Mr Black said. Mr Alcock was allegedly introduced to the woman, Michelle Corrigan, while she was working as a prostitute.

Mr Black said the most lavish holiday, valued at more than £22,000, involved Concorde flights for Mr Alcock, his wife and son, a cruise to Bermuda and accommodation at the Plaza Hotel in New York. That bill, Mr Black said, was paid for by Ara Ozemel, an American citizen with a London address who was liable to pay tax on about £2 million.

Mr Black said that in order to explain his wealth, Mr Alcock told colleagues that his

money came from legacies. Although his wife did not work he could afford a lifestyle far greater than his colleagues. He drove expensive cars, wore expensive clothes and lived a very substantial lifestyle. He was spending money as though there was no tomorrow.

Mr Black said that between 1983 and 1986 Mr Alcock was investigating the affairs of one of his co-defendants, Mr Alwan, an Iraqi businessman who agreed to pay £120,000 in back taxes.

But, he said, Mr Alcock ensured that money and a further sum of £10,000 was never paid when he failed to tell his colleagues the tax was due. Some time in 1989, Mr Black said, Mr Alwan, 56, introduced Mr Alcock to Ms Corrigan and on eight occasions paid for him to spend nights with her in London hotels.

Mr Black told the jury that another man Mr Alcock investigated was David Shamoon, another defendant in the case, who was a person of enormous wealth. Mr Shamoon, 66, gambled £39 million in London casinos between 1983 and 1991.

Mr Black said that Mr Alcock protected Mr Shamoon from investigation and accepted from him an all-expenses holiday with his mistress in Marbella.

The trial continues.

# Captain is cleared of brazen misdeeds on frigate

By EMMA WILKINS

A MIDSHIPMAN who claimed that the captain of HMS Brazen tried to kiss her at a fancy dress party and touched her in a sexual manner while on the bridge lost her claim for sexual discrimination yesterday.

Claire McGarrity, 25, made the allegations against Commander Paul Collins, 39, a Falklands veteran whose friends include the Duke of York. Commander Collins was her captain aboard HMS Brazen when she was a trainee officer two years ago.

Her claim that he tried to kiss her while he was dressed as Julius Caesar and she was a Roman centurion at a party in the Falkland Islands were rejected by the industrial tribunal. Ms McGarrity, who was seeking compensation, had also alleged that Commander Collins touched her hips in a sexual way while on the bridge at night. But the tribunal in Exeter accepted Commander Collins's statement that he was moving her while trying to reach important navigation charts.

Her claims that officers subjected her to sexual harassment by watching a pornographic film in the wardroom and making lewd remarks about her love life were also rejected. A ban on identification of the ship and captain was lifted by the tribunal.



Claire McGarrity, 25, claimed that Commander Paul Collins made improper approaches on board ship



During her evidence, Ms McGarrity admitted that she had a sexual relationship with a male junior rating on board HMS Brazen. Affairs at sea are banned by the Navy.

"There is some doubt about her overall credibility," Brian Walton, chairman of the tribunal panel, said yesterday. "On the balance of probability we accept it is most unlikely the applicant's version is correct. We reject any allegations against Commander Collins. We find no indication of any discouragement to women by the Royal Navy and, indeed, to the contrary. We find no evidence of sexual discrimination and her application is dismissed."

After the hearing, Ms McGarrity said: "I hope this

does not dishearten any other individual who believes they can provide more evidence of this form of discrimination."

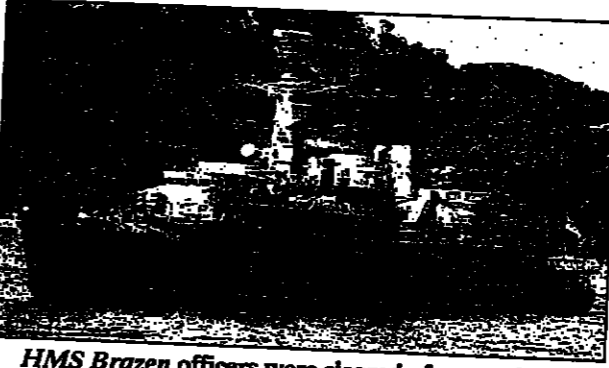
The tribunal was told that Ms McGarrity, of Portsmouth, had been dismissed

from a training course at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, after an interview with Commodore Simon Moore, then the college's captain. His evidence suggested that Ms McGarrity, a former

bank clerk, did not possess the leadership qualities, including honesty and integrity, needed to be a navy officer.

Commander Collins, now serving on the staff of the Second Sea Lord, was removed from HMS Brazen last year after he was court-martialled. The £92 million ship had run aground off Chile, causing £2 million damage, after a junior woman officer was allowed to take the helm. His friendship with the Duke of York began during the Falklands War in 1982, and the Duke attended his wedding in 1984.

A navy spokeswoman said that the service welcomed the ruling. "It proves that the Royal Navy does not discriminate against people's gender."



HMS Brazen officers were cleared of wrongdoing

# Suspect brought low as bishop and vicar take a pew

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BISHOP and a vicar sat on a suspected burglar and held him down as they waited for the police to arrive.

The Rt Rev Humphrey Taylor, the Suffragan Bishop of Selby, had been discussing church education matters with a colleague in his house in Precentor's Court in the shadow of York Minster when there were noises outside.

Mr Taylor and the Rev Andrew Martlew, the director of education for the York diocese, went to investigate and saw a man in the entrance to the Georgian terrace. The intruder tried to escape but the clergymen grabbed him.

There was a brief struggle in which Mr Martlew, 46, was struck over the head. The two clerics managed to force the man to the floor of the flagstoned entry lobby and hold him while police and the minister's own security patrol were called. Officers arrived within minutes.

Mr Martlew, a father of three, who lives in the vicarage at Crayke village, 15 miles north of York, was taken to York District Hospital where he received treatment for a head wound. Mr Taylor, 58, an old Harrovian who did National Service as an officer in the RAF, suffered from shock.

Yesterday the bishop, who took holy orders after completing an MA at Pembroke College, Cambridge, was playing down the whole episode. Back on his episcopal duties, the man who normally passes his spare time in the less physical pursuits of music and gardening declined to be interviewed, saying it might compromise the police investigation.

Mr Martlew was back at his

desk in the offices of the York diocese but refused to see callers about the incident, which happened on Wednesday afternoon.

It is not the first time Mr Martlew has been in the news. Last summer he backed the Crayke parish council's objections to the building of a classic Greek-style pavilion in the grounds of the home in the village of Bob Murray, the majority shareholder in Sunderland football club. He said that while not wishing to stifle the eccentricities of an English individual who wished to build follies, it was the wrong style for the setting. Councilors simply described it as "a monstrosity".

North Yorkshire Police said last night that a 27-year-old man from Middlesbrough had been charged with burglary, assault and breach of bail. He will appear before York magistrates today.



Bishop Taylor: he served in the RAF

# Owner of common challenged over fees

By IAN MURRAY

A COUNCIL is taking one of its councillors to the High Court to find out if he can charge residents thousands of pounds to drive across common land he owns. The outcome will affect thousands of homeowners who are cut off from public roads by strips of privately owned land.

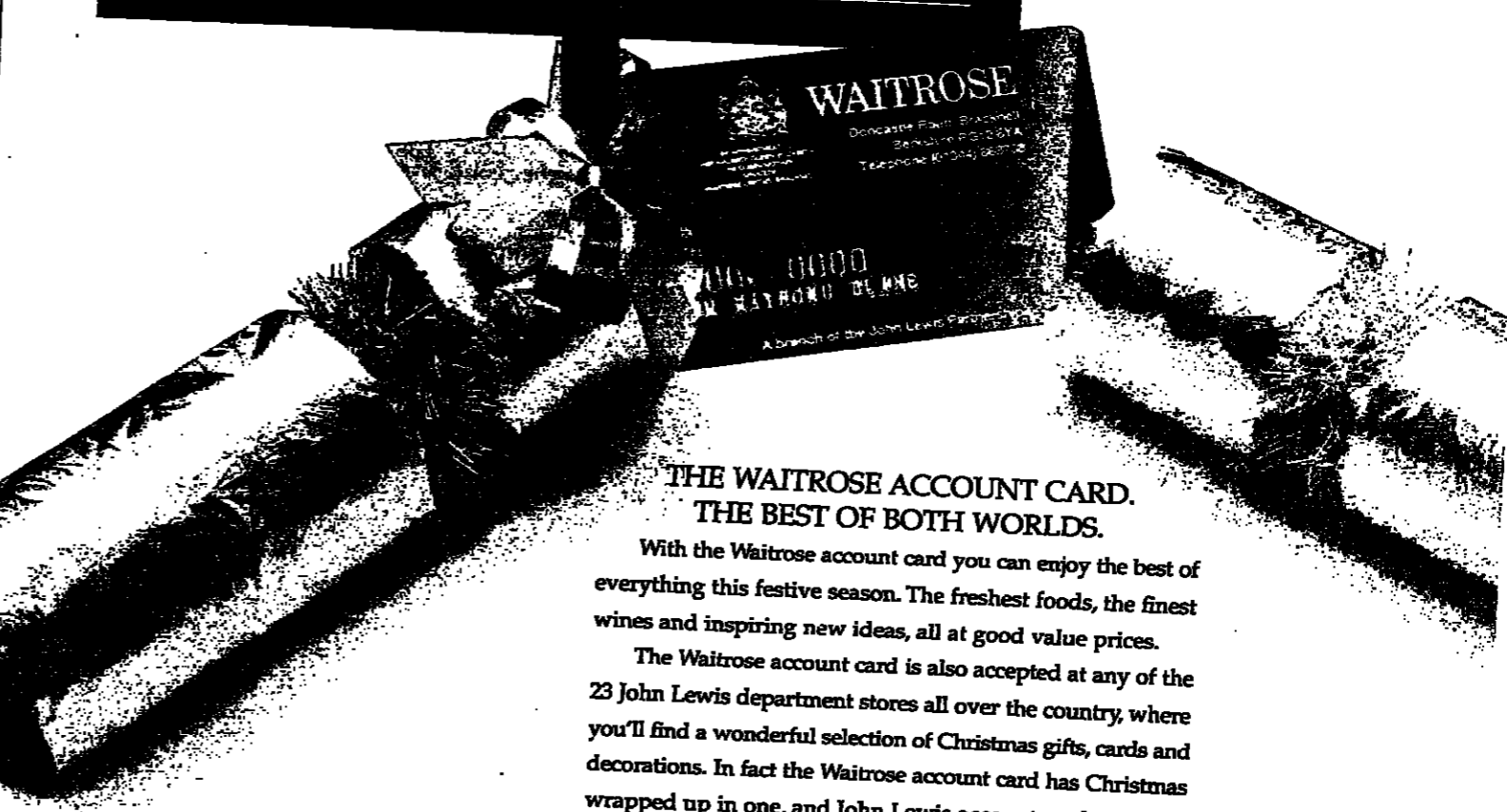
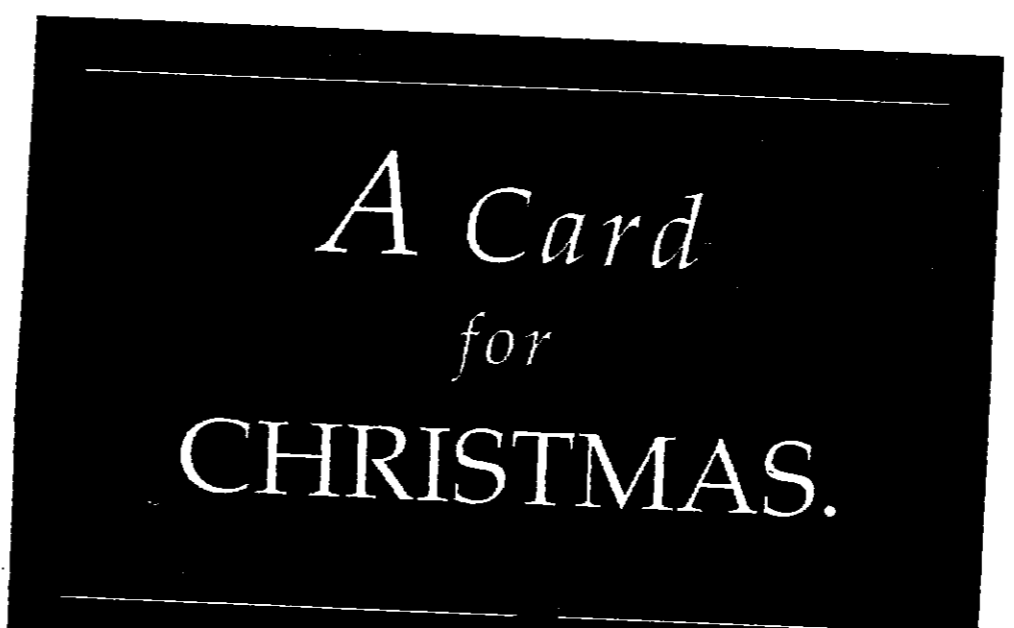
The case goes back to 1540 when the ancestors of Willie Hartley Russell became owners of Bucklebury Common, Berkshire. Over the centuries more than 200 houses were built around the common and the only access to them was across land owned by Mr Hartley Russell's family.

In 1929 the council reached an agreement with the family to run the land for them, relieving them of maintenance costs and opening the common to the public for leisure use. A bylaw was passed banning cars.

Mr Hartley Russell, 35, inherited the property from his father in 1991 and has been seeking to charge residents for "easement" — the right to cross the land to reach their homes. While many are refusing to pay, they find difficulty in selling their property because Mr Hartley Russell, a Tory councillor, insists that the buyer purchases an easement with the freehold.

Tim Williams, who in 1986 moved to a house 15ft from the road, was asked to pay £15,000 for his easement. Other residents have seen potential house sales fall through as the buyer learnt the cost of a right of way.

Stuart Tagg, head of Newbury District Council's legal department, said: "As guardian of the public good we have to get some certainty into this matter."



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# Toytown takes on Tinseltown as Noddy goes to Hollywood

By CAROL MITGLEY

NODDY and Big Ears were heading West last night to clean up America. The Famous Five will be going along to help.

It was hoped that they might amount to a new Magnificent Seven to stand up to gratuitous sex and violence threatening the minds of American youngsters. Toytown might not be big enough for all of them.

The British childhood heroes are to be published in the United States for the first time because the Enid Blyton Company feels that the moment is right to globally expand "safe, clean and innocent" children's stories to reflect growing parental concern over dangerous influences in television and cinema. The characters will remain visually true to Blyton's originals, but they will have to learn a new language for international publication, with rights secured by HarperCollins.

In order to appeal to US children, parts of the text are being Americanised. David Lane, managing director of the Enid Blyton Company, gave an example: "They will say 'gee whizz' rather than 'golly gosh'."

There are 24 Noddy books, more than 100 short stories and 39 television episodes. Five other Blyton series are also being taken to America, including The Famous Five and some of the legendary Mystery stories, although those deals are still to be announced. Noddy will be screened on US television in 1998. Until February, the rights were family owned and there was never an attempt to crack the US market.

Mr Lane, whose company Trocadero acquired the rights to all the Blyton books for £13 million, said: "The stories are safe and clean and entertaining. We are not like the Ninja Turtles or the Power Rangers. That is our attraction."

Last night at a dinner to herald the start of century celebrations honouring Miss Blyton's birth in 1897, the company launched an international Enid Blyton award. "The Enid" will be awarded annually for outstanding lifetime contribution to children's lives either in a cultural or social context. Nominations will run from next year.



Briton stabbed after clash in class

# Police chiefs want Freemason register among all ranks

By RICHARD FORD AND IAN MURRAY

CHIEF constables acted to curb police membership of freemasonry yesterday, calling on officers and civilian staff to openly register their position in the movement.

The voluntary register of police officers' interests, including membership of other societies such as Opus Dei, would be open for inspection at the headquarters of individual forces.

The Association of Chief Police Officers also urged the Home Office to bring in legislation to make it compulsory for officers to register their membership of any organisation whose articles of association demand a bond of loyalty from their members. They warned that membership of such an organisation created a strong potential for a conflict of interest.

The aim of yesterday's decision is to allay public fears and suspicions about the prevalence and influence of freemasons within the

police forces in England and Wales. Paul Whitehouse, chief constable of Sussex, said: "There is a wealth of belief about freemasonry in the police service but very little fact. What we are trying to do is to reassure the public that everyone in the police service is determined to deliver a fair service."

Mr Whitehouse said officers who were already Freemasons should think very carefully about their continued membership of the organisation. Mr Whitehouse said freemasonry was not a major problem but it had been necessary to allay public fears.

He said: "It's the secrecy that is the cause for concern. After all, there's not a widespread feeling that being a Rotarian or a Lions Club member presents a threat."

Last night's move was made only days after the Commons home affairs select committee announced that it was seeking evidence for its own enquiry

into freemasonry in the police and judiciary. Last night, Brian MacKenzie, president of the Police Superintendents Association, said there was concern about where the line would be drawn over the register: "Are they going to have to register membership of a golf club?"

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, attacked ACPO for concentrating on freemasonry, and added: "I think this announcement is an infringement of the rights of individual officers."

In the Masonic movement, Commander Michael Higham, Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, said: "Freemasons' principles do not in any way distract a police officer from his obligations."

The chief constables' council ratified a proposal to reduce the drink-drive limit from 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood to 50mg.



The actors John Sandford and Helen Grace playing Nat and Georgia Simpson

# Channel 4 will apologise over incest scene

By CAROL MIDDLEY

CHANNEL 4 has been instructed by the Independent Television Commission to broadcast an apology over a scene in *Brookside* depicting an incestuous relationship.

The order came the day after it emerged that the Broadcasting Standards Council is to uphold 40 complaints about the scene, in which a brother and sister were depicted kissing in bed. This and other scenes relating to incest were screened in an omnibus edition of the serial at 5pm on a Saturday. The ITC said they were "unsuitable for early evening transmission when large numbers of children may be expected to be watching."

The apology will be screened on Saturday week. The commission said: "The ITC has informed Channel 4 that the sequence in which the characters Nat and Georgia Simpson were shown in bed following sexual intercourse was inappropriate for this time and in breach of the requirements of the ITC Programme Code. The board of Channel 4 agreed that the scene should have been edited from the omnibus edition."

It is the first time Channel 4 has been ordered by the ITC to broadcast an apology since 1993, when it had to apologise over *The World*. The sanction is more serious than an ITC formal warning, used against Channel 4 this year for the bad language in *TFI Friday*, and in 1993 over *Brookside*.

*Brookside* has been widely criticised for its story about a sexual relationship between a brother and sister in their twenties, played by John Sandford and Helen Grace. Channel 4 said: "We fully accept the ITC's judgment that the scene should not have been shown at 5pm in the omnibus edition. We are pleased that they recognise that this storyline was an appropriate subject for the 8pm weekday showing, in *Brookside's* tradition of dealing with difficult and important issues."

The council's ruling, to be published next week, apparently objected to *Brookside's* treatment of the incest storyline in general.

# Abuse of asylum law to be caught on camera

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is planning to use closed-circuit television to monitor passengers stepping off planes as part of a drive to prevent people abusing asylum laws.

In the first nine months of this year there were 1,741 cases where people claimed asylum after arriving with inadequate documentation. This made it impossible for immigration officials to discover which flight they travelled on or if they had arrived via a third safe country and were therefore liable to be returned there. The aim of the measure is to identify passengers who destroy their travel documents.

A trial scheme is operating at Heathrow and if it proves effective the Home Office wants to extend it. The move follows measures including curbs on benefit payments to asylum seekers which ministers say have led to a fall in the number of applications in the second quarter of 1996 compared with the quarterly average in 1995 and 1994.

# Parishes get power to help local pub

By MICHAEL HORNSBY COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

VILLAGE pubs were offered the chance of cash help in the Commons yesterday. The Local Government and Rating Bill will give parish councils powers to cut the rates bills of struggling rural businesses.

There will be mandatory 50 per cent rate relief, funded by central government, for general stores and sub-post offices which are the sole shops in villages with fewer than 3,000 people. It is estimated that this could save 6,000 such premises about £500 each a year.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said the new measures would also give local councils discretionary powers to cut the rates of other local businesses, such as pubs and garages, although the local authority would have to meet 25 per cent of the cost.

The Bill also provides stronger powers for parish councils to take initiatives on transport and crime prevention.

# Tribute as press chief dies at 71

By ALAN HAMILTON

BRUCE MATTHEWS, a senior newspaper executive who played a key role in moving *The Times* and its sister newspapers to new technology and to their new home in Wapping, died in hospital in London yesterday, aged 71. He had been suffering from cancer for two years.

Australian-born Mr Matthews was managing director of News International, publishers of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the *News Of The World*, when in 1986 four of Britain's leading newspaper titles decamped from Fleet Street. The move secured the future of the industry.

Although they were on opposite sides of a bitter picket line, Mr Matthews earned respect from print-union leaders, having absorbed their culture when he was appointed deputy managing director of the *News Of The World* in 1972.

Mr Matthews, who is survived by his wife and three daughters, originally wanted to be a doctor but entered the print industry after studying

science in Sydney. Last night Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, said: "For me, Bruce Matthews was in the topmost bracket of newspapermen and managers. He was the man you wanted beside you in a battle — and we went through many battles side by side. Most of all I recall the battle of 1986. When News International moved to Wapping and launched a newspaper revolution that changed the face and the future of all British newspapers, Bruce was the rock on which the furies beat: he was steadfast until the storms had passed.

"In my own working life — in Australia, in England and in the USA — Bruce was for nearly 30 years one of the key players in the development that enabled us to become a worldwide force in communications. He was one of those rare managers who had mastered every aspect of the business. He had the respect and admiration of staff in all departments."

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Court rules that boys must have cultural identity

# Foster mother loses fight to keep black brothers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FOSTER mother who has cared for two boys aged eight and six since they were babies yesterday failed to overturn a ruling that they be returned to their Nigerian mother to grow up with their own race and culture.

The woman, aged 51, had looked after the brothers since they were a few weeks old under a private fostering agreement with their Nigerian parents. The Court of Appeal was told that the children were told that the children and were heartbroken at the prospect of leaving her.

The judges refused her leave to challenge a decision that the boys should go back to their 34-year-old mother, who lives in Camden, north London. Their father was living in Nigeria and unlikely to return to Britain, the court was told.

The white foster mother has three adult children and acts as a foster parent for social services in Middlesbrough. Paul Focke, QC, representing

the foster mother, said that the private arrangement was made so that the mother could continue her degree in business studies.

They had never spent more than a few weeks at a time with their natural mother. But early last year she informed the foster mother that she wanted the children back and planned eventually to return to Nigeria with them.

The court was told that the boys began wetting the bed and were distressed about the move. The foster mother successfully applied for an interim order to keep them with her.

At the High Court on July 30, Mr Justice Singer ruled that the boys should be returned to the mother after she said that she intended to remain in Britain. She agreed to counselling and to allow the boys regular contact with the foster mother.

Mr Focke said that Mr Justice Singer had been wrong

to give greater weight to the needs of the children to have a knowledge and understanding of their race and culture than the expected trauma of removal from the foster mother.

"The boys had lived with the foster mother virtually all of their lives save in each case for a few weeks in infancy. They regarded her as their mother and had a place in her family and in the local community," Mr Focke said.

"They had established roots in northeast England, which they regarded as their home. They were expressing strong, unequivocal views that they wished to remain living with their foster mother."

He said that Mr Justice Singer had thought the natural mother "deliberately evasive, untruthful and authoritarian" and had recognised that she "lacked insight into the children's needs". Since the judge's order, he said, the children had been so upset

that contact with their mother had broken down.

The Court of Appeal recognised that the case was "finely balanced" but upheld Mr Justice Singer's decision. Lord Justice Thorpe, sitting with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, said that new arrangements for phasing the children's return to their mother should be determined by Mr Justice Singer at a fresh hearing, expected to take place in the High Court in Sheffield next month.

Lord Justice Thorpe said: "This is another of those different cases that arise out of different perceptions that European peoples and West African peoples have as to the fostering of children. But in my judgment this is a hopeless application. The judge reached a decision which he recognised to be a finely balanced one in a difficult case and nowhere is it shown that he has mistaken himself in any fundamental legality."



The tile murals may have been by Royal Doulton artists. In this one, William the Conqueror defeats pirates

## Pub honoured for knight on the tiles

BY IAN MURRAY

A VICTORIAN seaside pub that was fitted with a carved mahogany bar, ornate plasterwork, etched windows and rare handpainted tile panels in a turn-of-the-century facelift has been granted national architectural status.

English Heritage has given Grade II listing to The Havelock in Hastings, East Sussex, as a perfect example of a public house of the 1890s. Pride of place among the decorations is taken by four tile murals in the style of two of the best Royal Doulton artists of the age.

Paintings on the interior tiles depict the town's castle, the battle of 1066 and a sea engagement as William the Conqueror boarded a French pirate ship. Outside is a tiled portrait of Sir Henry Havelock, hero of the Indian Mutiny in 1857, when the pub was built.

Alexander Clement, curator of Royal Doulton's museum, the Sir Henry Roubledon Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent, was asked by English Heritage to identify the tiles. One is marked with the name of a south London potter. But the local architect who was responsible for the pub's facelift may have bought them from a middleman who concealed their origin.

Mr Clement said the tiles were similar to paintings by two Royal Doulton artists, John Eyre and John McClelland, who worked between 1890 and 1917. Mark Oliver, a ceramics expert at Phillips, said the panels could fetch up to £7,000 each at auction but as part of a listed building cannot be removed.



Tile portrait of Sir Henry Havelock, Victorian hero

## Mastermind audition started but didn't finish

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

MAGNUS MAGNUSON is trying to trace a policeman who nearly ended up on Mastermind after sitting through an audition thinking it was a promotion interview.

The CID officer was awaiting his interview at the Dolphin hotel, Southampton, when he was mistakenly called in by an assistant for the television quiz. He performed excellently in the general

knowledge round and only after being asked his specialist subject did he realise that he was in the wrong room.

Mr Magnuson wanted to trace the officer so that the story can be included in a book he is writing about the show. Mr Magnuson said that because the mix-up happened about 16 years ago he was having trouble finding out if the officer won his promotion, and he has enlisted the help of Hampshire police.

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Now, after receiving rigorous inspection which even covered the question of a 'firearms operative' (one assumes in case of the escape of a killer Lace Wing), Mr Allen is now officially a head zoo keeper.

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## Judge frees surgeon convicted by jury over hospital death

By JOHN CAMPBELL  
IN WELLINGTON  
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

A JUDGE intervened after a New Zealand jury found a British surgeon guilty of manslaughter yesterday. He cleared the court and spoke to the prosecution and defence teams. A few minutes later a lawyer representing Keith Ramstead, 44, announced that no conviction had been entered against him.

Mr Ramstead walked free from court. David Collins, his lawyer, said outside the building that the case was still "live". The surgeon had been convicted at the High Court in Wellington over the death of Nancie Muncie, a 71-year-old patient on whom he operated in 1992 to remove a cancer that she did not have. Mr Ramstead was cleared of two other manslaughter charges, involving male patients aged 50 and 74. The charges arose from his employment at Christchurch Hospital between 1991 and 1993.

The judge's action is be-

lieved to be unprecedented. It is thought that Justice Ellis may have expressed concern over a perceived contradiction in Mr Ramstead being found guilty of one charge but cleared of the others. A special hearing in chambers has been fixed for next Friday. Until then he remains on bail.

Mr Ramstead went to New Zealand with his wife and four children in 1991. After three deaths in 11 months, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons investigated him. On the day that its report was published he resigned. The family home was put on the market and the Ramsteads returned to Britain.

He worked for two months at Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool. From August 1993 to March 1994 he was a locum at Whiston Hospital, Merseyside, which dispensed with his services because he was said to be abrupt with patients. At neither hospital was he undertaking surgery.

In 1994 Mr Ramstead became the first surgeon in New Zealand to face multiple charges of manslaughter. He

returned voluntarily to New Zealand to stand trial after an extradition action was started.

Controversy rages over whether he should have been charged. Jacobian Birch, the daughter of a 50-year-old man whose death on the operating table resulted in one of the manslaughter allegations, said that she did not believe the doctor had committed any crime.

Her father had been riddled with cancer, she said. Mr Ramstead tried his best and simply made a mistake. "As far as our family goes, we just feel sorry for you," she told him.

Mr Ramstead trained in cardiothoracic surgery at London hospitals, including Guy's and St Thomas's, from 1986 to 1991, reaching the rank of senior registrar. His operations were always supervised by consultants and he was regarded as satisfactory.

Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital NHS Trust said that his work had been reviewed after the New Zealand charges emerged and nothing untoward was found.



Keith Ramstead at the New Zealand court yesterday

## Executive cleared of killing wife in insurance fraud

FROM MICHAEL HORSNELL IN HERTOGENBOSCH

A BRITISH businessman accused of murdering his wife by setting fire to their house after plotting a £500,000 insurance swindle was freed by a court in The Netherlands yesterday.

Kevin Sweeney, 46, was acquitted of the murder by arson of his third wife Suzanne Davies, 32, his bride of nine months who choked to death in thick smoke.

The couple, who had met after she advertised in the personal columns of *Private Eye*, had bought the £194,000 house in Stensel three months before the fire, with a large mortgage in her name backed by big insurance policies.

The fire had broken out shortly after Mr Sweeney had driven off to another house that he owned in Bousval, an hour's drive away across the Belgian border, about 2.40am on July 7 last year, the court was told.

Police and firefighters who attended the blaze said there was a strong smell of turpentine and methylated spirit when they found Ms Davies's body. But Judge Stoker-Klein, president of the Paels van Justitie in Hertogenbosch, up-

held the defence case that the inflammable liquids, which were being used to decorate the house, had been ignited by a cigarette smoked in bed by Ms Davies.

The judge, sitting with two other judges, told the court: "The case against him has not been legally and convincingly proved and therefore he is entitled to go free."

The trial followed a major criminal investigation by Dutch police after Mr Sweeney had been arrested in Belgium and extradited to The Netherlands. A team of eight detectives from Scotland Yard who, the court was told, were investigating business matters involving Mr Sweeney, travelled to Holland.

Ms Davies, from Buckinghamshire, was a former sales director with a small publishing company. After the failure of Mr Sweeney's first marriage, to a Danish woman now living in Odense, he married his second wife Beverley in 1987. She collapsed from heart failure, aged 33, in 1993 at the couple's home in Bousval.

Mr Sweeney has accused Scotland Yard of trying to "frame" him and said he would be taking legal advice with a view to suing for damages over wrongful arrest and a financial loss that he said could run into millions. Nicolaas Meijering, Mr Sweeney's lawyer, said that they would await any decision by the prosecution during the next 14 days to appeal against Mr Sweeney's acquittal. "After that we will do everything we can to get compensation for the financial and personal damage he has suffered but no money can make up for the loss."

"The way the Dutch police acted was only aimed at nailing Mr Sweeney and not to find the truth. I will go after them. They have violated the basic rules of our justice system."

Mr Sweeney said: "Marriage has been wonderful to me. I have been lucky. My wives were wonderful women."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Ferry firm complains over navy collision

A ferry company has formally complained to the Ministry of Defence after a catamaran collided with a Royal Navy vessel that was allegedly unlit and straying into a commercial shipping lane. The incident happened shortly after 7.20pm on Wednesday as the Red Funnel catamaran, with 42 passengers on board, was travelling from Southampton to Cowes on the Isle of Wight. Despite a crash stop, the catamaran brushed against the Navy's 18th Rigid Raider carrying marines on a beach-landing exercise.

## Champion fined

Bob Champion, the former Grand National winning jockey who heads a cancer trust, has been fined £250 for illegally keeping a shotgun after police were tipped off anonymously. Champion, 48, of Newmarket, Suffolk, told Newmarket magistrates that he had forgotten to renew his licence.

## Seeing the light

Edinburgh City Council has agreed after all to spend £26,000 on Christmas trees and decorations in 18 neighbourhoods after community leaders protested at its original decision to withhold the money. But the hard-up council appealed to private enterprise to help with the cost next year.

## Winning posts

Only 39 per cent of people would give up work if they won enough money on the National Lottery to retire, according to a survey for the Institute of Personnel and Development. Tomorrow's lottery draw is a rollover, the first for 15 weeks, with an estimated jackpot of about £20 million.

## Halsall dies

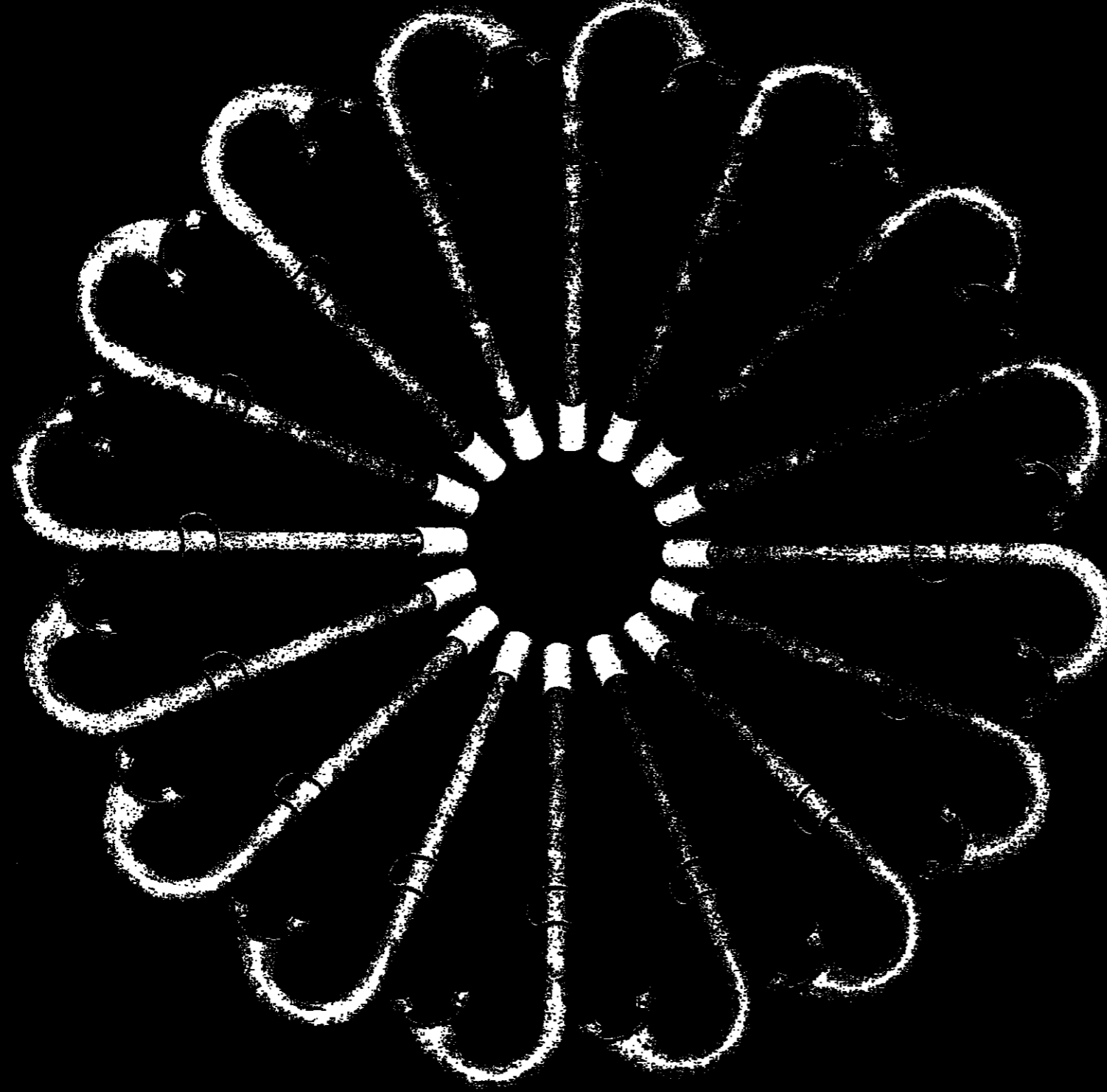
Eric Halsall, a commentator on the BBC's *One Man And His Dog*, has died at his home near Burnley, Lancashire, aged 75. Mr Halsall spent 14 years on the show from 1975. A BBC spokesman said that through his insights into sheepdog trialling he had done more than anyone to popularise the programme.

## Plagued by ear

A factory worker who complained of headache and ear pains for two years was freed after a doctor discovered part of a pen in his ear. Cliff Brown, 43, from Sudbury, Suffolk, believes that the plastic plug from the end of the pen lodged in his ear while he was scratching his head with it.



Sweeney may sue police over financial loss



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Stepfather whose wife and son died attacks report that made deaths 'sound more like clerical error'

# Trust criticised over avoidable killings by 'ticking timebomb'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN INQUIRY into a psychiatric patient who killed his mother and stepbrother after he was freed decided that nobody was to blame but that better communication between health workers could have prevented the deaths.

A report on the care of Anthony Smith, published yesterday, provokes outrage and disbelief from Peter Smith, the patient's stepfather, and the mental health charities Sane and the Zito Trust.

Mr Smith, an accountant, had given warning that his 25-year-old stepson was a "ticking timebomb" who kept dangerous weapons under his bed. His words were ignored.

The independent inquiry, chaired by Professor Sir John Wood, found that shortly before Smith's discharge from hospital a consultant was told by his stepfather of the patient's refusal to take medication while on weekend leave, his unhealthy fascination for weapons and of the disappearance of a knife. Attempts by his mother Gwendoline and a nurse to warn doctors of a deterioration in Smith's condition were treated with insufficient seriousness.

"The facts we have been considering are especially tragic in that all the necessary elements for avoidance were in place," the report said. "With hindsight there are many concerned who would have acted differently and will do so."

Dr Andy Clayton, medical director of the trust responsible for Smith's care, denied a failure of duty but said it would have acted differently with hindsight. Smith, 25, suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and his stepfather had considered killing himself to prevent the tragedies he felt sure would happen if he was discharged.

Smith left Derby City General Hospital in July last year



Anthony Smith: said killings were inevitable

when a consultant felt that he was ready to return home, provided he took medication regularly. Care in the community was arranged.

Five weeks later, on August 8, a letter arrived at Smith's home in Sandiacre, Derbyshire, confirming an appointment to see his consultant, Dr Sarah Barrett.

Dr Clayton said: "Before the meeting could take place Anthony's condition deteriorated

suddenly and without warning. We are not saying that we were perfect."

On the day the letter arrived, Smith used a knife with an 11-inch steel blade and a homemade iron bar to stab his mother 43 times and 11-year-old stepbrother David 24 times. He then walked into a nearby health centre, admitted the killings and calmly said: "It was inevitable."

Smith, a former Territorial Army soldier, admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility this March and was sent indefinitely to the top-security Rampton Hospital in Nottinghamshire.

Mr Smith said that his concerns about his stepson's condition and his signs of aggression were given insufficient attention. Dr Clayton said that the patient's wishes of the family. He said Smith had explicitly asked the trust to have only limited contact with his relatives.

Mr Smith, 47, said: "It is bureaucrats going through bureaucratic speeches. They are not prepared to take responsibility. They have glossed over everything and make it sound more like a clerical error than anything else. Dr Clayton should have put his hands up and said, 'We made an error. I don't know how they sleep at night. The medical profession is closing ranks here.'"

At the time of the court case, Mr Smith no longer wanted to see or speak to his stepson but his feelings have changed. "I have started to see it from his side and what he was up against with these people. He was a victim of the system."

Marjorie Wallace, the chief executive of Sane, said that Dr Clayton should have resigned. "Anthony Smith should have been sectioned and given at least six months to stabilise so that he would now be making rational decisions and be able to live with his family."

"That he was sent back to his family against their wishes is quite unforgivable."



Peter Smith with pictures of his wife Gwen and son David, killed by his stepson

## Stalker's family say he does not deserve Rampton

By LIN JENKINS

THE family of Clarence Morris, the convicted stalker, say he is a victim of a failure of community care and should not be sent to a top-security mental hospital.

Morris, 37, harassed Perry Southall for eight months after he called to make an appointment at the dental surgery where she worked as a nurse. He bombarded her with suggestive letters and unwanted gifts, threatened her and confronted her with an axe.

The court was told that he had 45 previous convictions for theft, burglary and sexual offences, including raping a 15-year-old girl. Judge Butler, QC, said that he should be sent indefinitely to Rampton high-security hospital but a bed is not available until December.

Relatives say that while Morris, a paranoid schizophrenic, is ill and needs treatment, he is not the monster depicted in the trial reports. The needs of society and Morris could be met by sentencing him to a medium-security unit, like the one in Hackney, east London, where he is being treated before going to Rampton.

Yvonne Morris, one of his two sisters, said yesterday: "This offence has been blown out of all proportion mainly due to the fact that stalking is currently near the top of the political agenda. I am not saying that he is a good person and not a danger to the community but he does not deserve to go to Rampton. We are all terrified of him but we feel that the way he has been treated is very unfair."

She said that her brother had shown signs of mental illness before arriving from Jamaica with his parents at the age of eight. He spent a

total of 15 years in prison, only once being sentenced to treatment at a psychiatric unit run by Guy's Hospital, London, in February 1992.

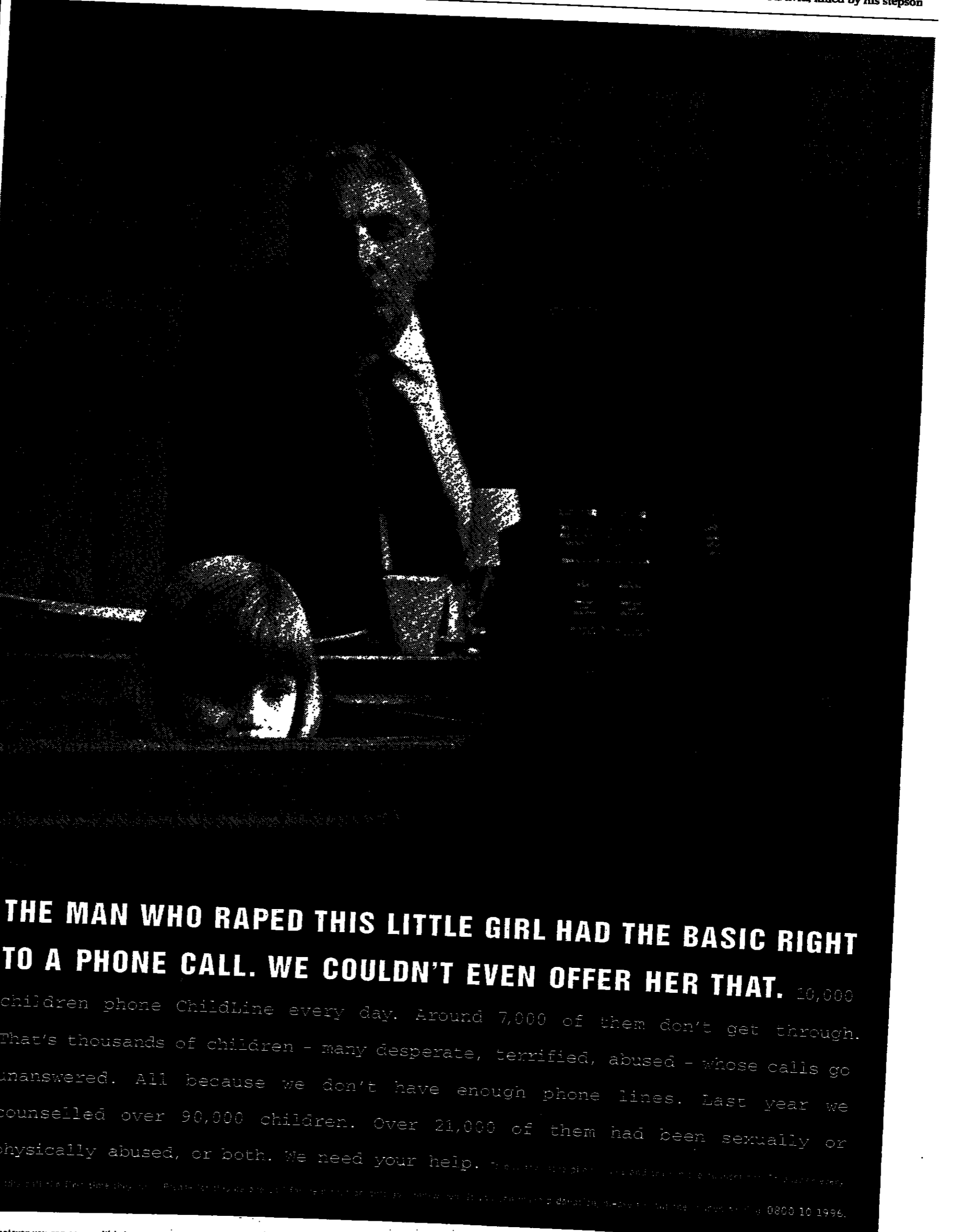
The family had heartfelt sympathy for Miss Southall but said that she was not the only victim. "Clarence is also a victim of a society that ignores the pleas of families who tell the authorities that their child, who has been put in borstal or prison for repeated offences, is not just bad and dangerous but is mentally ill and needs help."

"Clarence's record has been brought up time and time again, which begs the question whether he was being sentenced for the present offence or for past offences for which he has already served time," Ms Morris said.

His mother and sisters visit him regularly at the medium-security unit in Hackney but would find it difficult to travel from London to Nottinghamshire to see him in Rampton. Ms Morris said that there was no follow-up treatment for her brother after his release from the Guy's unit. "If he had been on his medication it is highly unlikely that he would have behaved in this way."



Morris: first signs of illness while a child



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Co-op: part-boned duckling breast £5.98 a kg, breaded hoki portions £1.09 for 250g, minced garden peas 50p for 454g, Nestlé Kit Kat ice-cream £1.99 for 5 x 60ml.

Harrods: lamb en croûte £1.49 for 100g, stuffed pork belly with pepper £1.70 for 100g, Scottish smoked salmon £3.97 for 4 x 227g.

Iceland: boneless chicken breast £3.99 for 900g, Gigantica 12in pizza £1.99, broccoli florets 99p for 400g, apple crumble 99p for 400g.

Marks & Spencer: frozen chunky haddock in breadcrumbs £3.99 for 400g, chicken and leek pie £2.49 each, low-fat lasagne £1.19 pack, potato croquettes 99p for six.

Morrisons: cod fillet £1.99 a lb,

whole trout £1.19 a lb, swede 12p a lb, Cox apples 29p a lb, Delta seedless oranges 99p for ten, Conference pears 29p a lb.

Safeway: rump steak £6.95 a kg, small pork pie 30p each, tagliatelle carbonara £1.99 for 600g, cauliflower 49p each, green peppers 69p a lb, medium avocados 39p each, Comice pears 49p a lb, Spartan apples 49p a lb, kiwi fruit 12p each, large pineapples 99p each.

Sainsbury's: chicken fillets £3.75 for four, salmon steak £8.45 a kg, Cornish pasties 99p for four, trimmed leeks 49p a lb, satsumas 49p a lb, Cox apples 79p a kg.

Selfridges: Alderton marmalade glazed ham £1.95 a 4lb, blue Siltón £4.25 a lb, organic vegan wheat and dairy-free Christmas cake £9.99 each.

Somerfield: boneless lamb chump chops £8.99 a kg, pre-sliced Scottish smoked salmon £2.87 for 200g, baby aubergines £1.29 a pack, Golden Delicious apples 27p a lb, white muffins 49p for eight.

Tesco: lamb chops £5.47 a kg, rainbow trout £1.87 a lb, cauliflower 49p each, white potatoes 99p for 5kg, dessert pears 99p a kg, pomegranates 19p each.

Waitrose: fresh poussin £2.30 for 800g, small pumpkin 29p each, English Bramley apples 49p a lb, pure pineapple juice 99p a litre, Mountain Blend coffee £1.35 for 227g.

# Ministers hinder Clarke's search for Budget tax cuts

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE has warned his Cabinet colleagues that he cannot cut taxes before the general election unless they reduce their spending plans further.

The Chancellor is said to be increasingly frustrated that those ministers who have been demanding lower taxes are refusing to agree cuts in their departmental budgets. The EDX Cabinet committee, which is chaired by Mr Clarke, is now meeting regularly to question individual Cabinet ministers. Meetings are expected to continue until at least the end of next week but Mr Clarke is hoping to be able to put firm recommendations to the full Cabinet in a fortnight.

Most of the big spending departments have been told to find further savings in an attempt to bring spending within the £268 billion limit agreed in July.

Ministers were hoping to be able to undercut that by between £3 billion and £5 billion but yesterday Treasury sources said the upper figure had been unrealistic and that

it might now prove difficult to undercut the limit at all.

"Ministers are just not prepared to play ball," one source close to the Treasury said. "Nobody wants spending cuts in their own departments in the run up to the election."

Treasury sources are determined to play down the prospect of tax cuts. They argue that public borrowing is higher than expected and the Government will have to spend at least £1 billion extra on the beef crisis.

Announcements made at the Tory party conference — including the cost of extra prisons as the result of tougher sentencing — also have spending implications. The Prime Minister's pledge for an increase in health spending in real terms every year will cost at least £5 billion during the next Parliament.

In addition the Government faces a compensation bill of at least £40 million after implementing the handgun ban. But inflation is slightly lower than forecast, allowing some room for manoeuvre.

City analysts still predict



Clarke: pressing for lower public spending

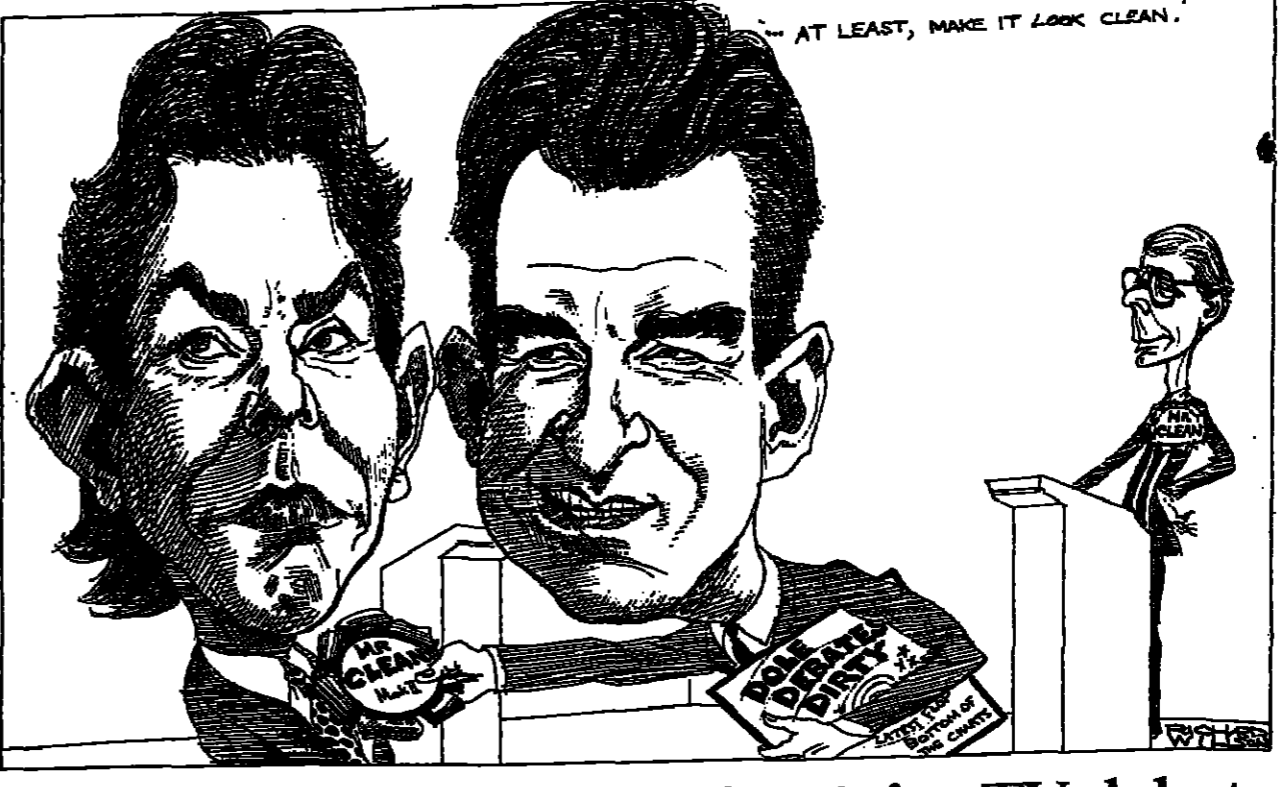
effect. The new measures will result in an estimated extra 10,000 prisoners by 2010.

Mr Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, is said to be resisting measures to penalise existing benefit claimants, but he is under pressure to back a plan to cut the special premium for all single parents. Last year Mr Lilley agreed to freeze the two special top-up payments for new single parents — a benefit worth £6.30 for all single parents and the £5.20 premium for those who are on income support. He has agreed to freeze them again but is being pressed to go further and extend it to all claimants, with cuts for new single parents.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is facing renewed demands from universities for extra money, and Mr Forth, the Defence Secretary, is said to be trying to secure new defence orders.

Major is being followed by intensive Labour research into the techniques used by President Clinton.

Peter Mandelson, one of Mr Blair's closest aides, has returned to Britain after picking up some of the secrets behind the President's highly acclaimed television performance in San Diego. Mr



## Mandelson ready for Blair-Major TV debate

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TONY BLAIR'S demand for a pre-election televised debate with John Major is being followed by intensive Labour research into the techniques used by President Clinton.

Peter Mandelson, one of Mr Blair's closest aides, has returned to Britain after picking up some of the secrets behind the President's highly acclaimed television performance in San Diego. Mr

Mandelson, who will head Labour's general election campaign, is preparing the ground for the possibility of Britain's first such television debate.

He says that the 1½-hour debate, one of two between President Clinton and Bob Dole, his Republican challenger, raised critical issues that would be overlooked in a British general election. "It was civilising and a long way from the reputation of US dirty gutter-fighting," Mr Mandelson said. Although acknowl-

edging that the answers were carefully prepared, he added: "The questions put to the candidates were ones of real public concern and candidates had to respond with serious, considered answers."

Although Mr Major has dismissed Labour calls for a live televised debate, senior Tory strategists concede that it is now a possibility. Mr Mandelson will make a speech next month, pressing for a campaign with fewer soundbites and deeper political coverage.

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## Labour to pledge after school clubs

By JILL SHERMAN

HARRIET HARMAN will today outline a series of new policies to help single mothers into work including after-school clubs where children can play or do their homework till 5.30pm.

The Shadow Social Security Secretary will pledge that a Labour government would introduce a nationwide scheme to ensure that working mothers could safely leave their children at school or in local play centres until they are able to pick them up.

The clubs, which will offer a mixture of recreation and homework supervision, will be run by parents, people who have retired early or teachers who have volunteered to stay late. Party sources insisted that the clubs would cost very little to run, an estimated £15 per child per week, but the cost would not have to be met by the government.

Charges would be levied on a sliding scale for parents who could afford to pay, while those on benefit would have some of the money transferred to the club. Ms Harman also hopes that the private sector would contribute and that National Lottery money can be used.

The scheme would apply to children from the age of five to about 14. Some clubs might collect children from home in the morning, serve them breakfast and take them to school. Others might provide transport between the school and the local play centre.

Ms Harman will use her response to the Queen's Speech to highlight the growing problem of unemployed single mothers who are trapped on benefit and cost the taxpayer more than £7 billion a year. She will argue that 90 per cent of single parents want to work but are trapped on benefit because there is little financial incentive to take a low-paid job.

She is expected to flesh out details of the clubs scheme next week, but sources emphasised that the facilities would be open to all mothers. One said: "It will be universal provision. There will be no stigma attached to single parents."

The scheme is also intended to help to prevent juvenile crime, by encouraging children not to roam the streets or sit in front of the television.

Other policies are expected to focus on making it easier for single mothers to work without losing benefit immediately, and without being denied housing benefit to pay for their mortgage if they lose their job after a short time.

Leading article, page 21

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# Laboratory mice carry secret of human BSE risk

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A GROUP of elderly mice in a London laboratory are the key to the future spread of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The longer they live, the lower the risk of a massive epidemic.

The mice are genetically engineered to produce a human version of the brain protein implicated in the disease. More than 18 months ago, they were injected with material from the brain of a cow with BSE.

The experiment is designed to show whether, and how soon, the humanised mice succumb to the disease. Normal mice do so after an average of 400 days; these mice are still healthy — although some have died of old age — after more than 500 days.

That looks encouraging, but it is subject to a number of caveats, according to Professor John Collinge of Imperial College and St Mary's Hospital, whose 23-strong group of scientists is conducting the experiment. He knows that if these humanised mice are challenged with CJD rather than BSE, they get sick quickly — in about 200 days. This is because their prions are human, and CJD is a human disease; there is no "species barrier" to jump. The way to measure the height of that barrier is to compare the time taken for the mice to succumb

to BSE with the 200 days it takes them to die from CJD.

The barrier between cows and mice, measured in this way, is 250 days. Since the humanised mice challenged with BSE are still alive at 500 days, we know that the barrier between humans and cows is as large, if not larger. The longer the mice stay healthy, the higher that barrier must be, and the lower the number of people who will acquire BSE from beef.

If mice eventually die of old age without developing any symptoms, the experiment will continue by taking extracts from their brains and injecting them into other mice. If the first group are incubating CJD, their brains might cause the disease more swiftly in the second group.

Even if all the mice survive, humans could still be in danger. "We only infected 50 mice to start with," Professor Collinge said. "If the disease affected, say, one in a thousand, I wouldn't see it. But there could still be 50,000 people infected in Britain."

Just who those people would be could depend on a genetic lottery. The evidence is that only about half the population is likely to be susceptible, because of the particular prion genes they carry.

Prions are found in all higher creatures, and are en-

coded by a gene consisting of 800 nucleotide bases, the "letters" of the genetic alphabet. There are two versions of the gene, called V and M.

Each person carries two copies of each gene, one maternal and one paternal, allowing three possible combinations: MV, MM, or VV. Half the population has MV; the other half divide equally between MM and VV. Almost all cases of CJD occur in people with two identical copies: MM or VV. Those with a mixture of M and V seem to be immune.

The probable reason is that a mixture is less easily converted to the rogue form of the prion which causes the disease. Infection with CJD occurs when a rogue prion getting into the body acts as a "seed", encouraging abnormal changes to other prions, and eventually loss of brain function and death.

In theory, drugs to counter the process are possible. Professor Collinge says that what is needed is to establish a test-tube system in which the prion changes can be observed. "Then you could use modern techniques to screen thousands of different compounds to see if they would stop the change taking place. Once you find one, you try to improve it, and eventually you would have a drug that would stop the process."



Open wide: Michael Gottlieb, chairman of the restaurateurs' association, is happy to put his beef where his mouth is during yesterday's festival

# Conference message falls on empty seats

By ROBIN YOUNG

AS PARTY poopers biochemists take some beating. More than 600 invitations to the Festival of British Beef in London were issued; with headlines everywhere about Professor Collinge, BSE and death from CJD only 200 people took them up.

"We hoped there would be more people here," said the chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, Don Curry, as speeches began to rows of empty seats in the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, Westminster. "With 130,000 catering outlets around the country it is sometimes difficult to get our message across."

Here then, for the benefit of those

who unfortunately could not attend, is the message: "Professor Collinge's research has not changed a thing. The safeguards that have been put in place were already based on the worst case assumption that there was a link between BSE and CJD. So far as safety is concerned, this research has no implications."

Having disposed of the bad news, how about some good news? "The quality of British beef has never been better," Mr Curry gamely insisted. "Retailers are reporting sales 85 per cent of pre-BSE levels. No other product could have withstood the publicity beef has suffered and still come out so strongly."

Kevin Taylor, the Agriculture Min-

istry's deputy chief veterinary officer, told the conference that his wife causes chaos in restaurants by refusing anything but British beef on grounds of safety. "Gives a whole new meaning to 'mad cow,'" muttered a restaurateur in the audience.

Bob Gledhill, deputy editor of *Caterer & Hotelkeeper*, tried to reassure the audience by putting media scares in context. BSE made so many headlines, he suggested, only because "mad" and "cow" were such conveniently short words, and because pictures of dairy cattle came much cheaper than news photographs.

"Sales of beef will recover," promised Michael Gottlieb, chairman of the Restaurateurs' Association of Great

Britain, admitting that sales through his own Smolensky's restaurants were still only half what they had been in 1989.

Vegetarians led miserable lives, he said, observing that they complained more in restaurants than anyone else. "It has nothing to do with the quality of the food and everything to do with the state of their minds. A disproportionate number of journalists are vegetarians. This might explain why BSE gets so many column inches."

Upstairs there was lunch: three Thai recipes for beef, plates of salt beef with garnishings, and several tureens of beef in beer stew. At least five people refused to eat beef in any of its forms, sticking to vegetables and salads.

# New research bolsters support for EU ban

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE latest evidence of a human link to mad cow disease was viewed across Europe yesterday as further proof that no British beef should be sold abroad without tougher measures to eradicate BSE in the United Kingdom.

The media and politicians greeted the scientific findings of Professor John Collinge's team as fresh vindication of the beef ban, imposed last March. The reaction, as usual, was strongest in Germany, where officials said the research had reinforced their belief that the ban could not be lifted for a long time.

*Süddeutsche Zeitung* said: "The message is clear: there is not the slightest reason to ease up the fight against BSE. Perhaps London will listen at last to serious researchers in

its own country," *Bild* said: "Thank goodness German politicians did not wait for more and more evidence but acted in good time." Germany was first to impose a ban on British beef last March.

In France, *Liberation* said the apparent proof that humans could be infected by eating beef should serve to ensure that politicians were kept under the pressure of public opinion to take the strictest measures.

The European Commission, which co-ordinates EU action against BSE, said there appeared no reason to change its approach to the British beef crisis. It repeated its demand, shared by all 14 other member states, that Britain immediately implement the selective slaughter of 140,000 cattle,

which it promised in the agreement on easing the ban in Florence in June. The Government suspended the cull in September after scientists reported that BSE would die out without further measures early in the next century.

Gerry Kieley, the spokesman for Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said: "In terms of the pace at which the ban is lifted, the first step is totally in the hands of the British Government." Since 1989, the Commission had acted on the assumption that there could be a link between BSE and CJD, and the latest British findings showed that the approach of the Florence accord was correct, he said.

Britain's suspension of the cull has been greeted with incomprehension. Herr Fischler said that the new British findings "show how serious the crisis is. We must make sure all the measures which have been put in place are maintained, because now we have to face the fact that the disease can be transmitted to people."

Britain is preparing to apply to the EU to start lifting the ban for cattle from certified BSE-free herds in Northern Ireland. With emotions stirred again by the latest report, the Government is expected to delay its formal request for the action, British sources said. The Commission is not happy with a British proposal to implement the selective slaughter only in Northern Ireland in return for EU approval to renew exports from the province.

The Commission is itself under criticism for its handling of the epidemic. The European Parliament, which is leading the attack, yesterday agreed to extend for three more months a committee of inquiry which is investigating the alleged mishandling of the epidemic by the Commission and Britain.

# Present safeguards 'are tight enough'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS HOGG, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday that he saw no need for any new safeguards arising out of the latest scientific evidence on a link between BSE and the fatal CJD brain disease in humans.

"We have been working on the assumption for a long time now that BSE was capable of being transmitted," he told *The Times*. "Therefore the measures that we first put in place at the end of the Eighties, and subsequently reinforced, were directed to guarding the public against any risk."

"Now what Professor Collinge has done is to provide evidence which tends to corroborate the assumption which we previously had made for working purposes.

So I see no need for further measures."


The Prime Minister came to Mr Hogg's support, telling BBC Television's *Breakfast News* that beef was "perfectly safe". He added: "So there ought to be no fresh public concern because the action that would be necessary has been taken, in some cases six or seven years ago, and enlarged upon fairly recently."

"There is no need for any more action and, because the action has been taken, there is no need for the European Union to panic."

Professor John Pattison, head of the scientific committee advising the Government on BSE, also said he would eat beef "without any reservations", because of the safeguards that were in place.

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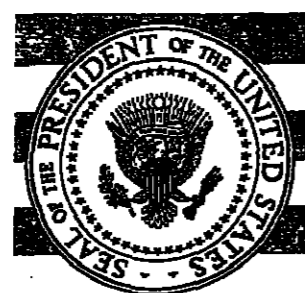
# Despairing Dole pleads with Perot to drop out

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AN INCREASINGLY desperate Bob Dole, watching his chances of reaching the White House receding by the day, has called on the maverick millionaire, Ross Perot, to abandon his independent bid for the presidency and throw his weight behind the faltering Republican campaign.

In an overture which reveals the Dole campaign's growing despair, Scott Reed, the Republican campaign manager, flew to Dallas for a secret meeting with Mr Perot on Wednesday. Last night Mr Perot said he was in the race to stay. The Perot campaign office said it was considering asking Mr Dole to drop out.

The move comes as Mr Dole's plight in the presidential race appears to be worsening, despite strenuous attempts in the past week to refocus his campaign. A new Washington Post nationwide poll shows President Clinton leading by 54 per cent compared to Mr Dole's 32 per cent. The latest Los Angeles Times poll shows Mr Dole lagging by 20 points in California.



ELECTION '96

despite his highly publicised decision last week to commit \$4 million (£2.5 million) and much of his time to the state.

Mr Dole has also been forced to keep battling for nearly half the Southern states — Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana — which Republican candidates traditionally take for granted. At the request of former President Bush, he is even visiting Texas, where Democratic inroads have been unthinkable.

The new downturn in Mr Dole's fortunes dates from the second televised presidential debate in San Diego on Octo-

ber 16 and his decision to "go negative", attacking Mr Clinton's character and ethics. Before the debate, the gap between the candidates appeared to be closing, but voters seem to have found the character attacks off-putting.

Mr Dole is not short of courage. It takes resilience to stand on a podium three times a day and hear yourself introduced as the next President while that claim becomes ever less credible. But as the campaign enters the last 12 days, he has more energy than options.

In the past 36 hours, the Dole campaign has quietly dropped the character issues short of an indictment of the President or his wife, most voters appear to have dismissed the Whitewater allegations as murky but distant Arkansas history.

It cannot wield traditional Republican themes of crime, welfare and family values, as they have devastatingly been appropriated by the Democrats; in an astonishing reversal of usual tactics, Democrats

are running more anti-crime advertisements than their rivals, making much of their gun-control measures.

Most damagingly, Mr Dole's tax-cutting message, the only policy which distinguished him from Mr Clinton and was capable of reaching beyond the traditional Republican base, does not appear popular enough. Voters are sceptical that he can cut taxes while controlling the budget deficit, the cause to which he had devoted his career.

In approaching Mr Perot, the Dole campaign hoped to grab the Reform Party's small but steady block of support, which The Washington Post poll puts at 8 per cent. However, the move is risky: it is possible that if Mr Perot dropped out, Mr Clinton might benefit most, according to recent New York Times polls. In practice, the bid for Mr Perot's support looks a long shot. The gulf between the two candidates' main policies seems too formidable to be breached even by the politics of desperation.



Jorge Cabrera, a drug trafficker, with Hillary Clinton at a White House party and, below, with Vice-President Al Gore



## Drug trafficker's gift to Democrats fuels funding row

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE MURKY underworld of Miami entered America's most expensive presidential election yesterday after the Justice Department was forced to release photographs of Hillary Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore posing with a Democratic contributor since convicted of drug smuggling in the Caribbean.

The story behind the pictures, showing Jorge Cabrera beside a smiling Mrs Clinton at a White House party and with Mr Gore at a separate event in Florida, further highlighted the seemingly endless trail of dubious donations which have surfaced in Clinton campaign and Democratic Party coffers this year.

Cabrera, currently serving a 19-year sentence for peddling narcotics, made a \$20,000 (£13,300) donation to the Democratic National Committee in 1995. The photographs embarrassed the Clinton campaign yesterday, surfacing hard on the heels of increasing allegations over foreign contributions to the Democratic Party, and after President Clinton's attempt to encourage the family vote by announcing a drug testing programme for suburban teenagers.

Leading Republicans, who had demanded the release of the photographs, accused Mr Clinton of placing pressure on the Justice Department to suppress evidence by withholding them from the public. Bob Dole, the presidential challenger, said it was a further example of how the President's character had tar-

nished the Oval Office. "I'm not going to be AWOL like President Clinton has been AWOL in the war on drugs," he said. "And I'm not going to invite drug dealers to the White House either."

Democrats claim they were unaware until last week of Cabrera's drug connections in Miami, and the Justice Department rejected allegations of a cover-up. With candidates expected to spend a staggering \$1.6 billion, the controversy over campaign financing, spurred by initial revelations that the Democratic Party received an illegal \$250,000 contribution from a South Korean firm, is unlikely to affect the outcome of the election. However, the issue will not vanish easily thereafter. The emergence of almost \$1 million in contributions and widespread connections be-

tween President Clinton, other Democrats and the Lippo banking conglomerate based in Indonesia, has raised the unpalatable question of whether the world's greatest power is for sale to the highest bidder.

There is no evidence that the Riadys, the Lippo officials who first met Mr Clinton in Arkansas, have influenced diplomatic or foreign policy, but their circle acquired key administration jobs. John Huang, a former Lippo employee who joined the Commerce Department and became top Democratic fundraiser, has been relieved of his duties and his activities are being investigated.

‘The world's greatest power may be for sale to the highest bidder’

## Republicans scent Arkansas victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

IN AN otherwise bleak election season, one of the few bright spots on the Republican horizon is in President Clinton's native Arkansas.

In 13 days the state could send a Republican to the US Senate for the first time in its 160-year history. In doing so, it would wreck the Democrats' hopes of gaining the three more seats they need to recapture the Senate.

The high stakes demand relentless campaigning. As rainstorms pounded Arkansas on Monday, Tim Hutchinson, the Republican candidate, took to the relatively prosperous northwest while Winston Bryant, the Democrat, swept the rural south from Texarkana to El Dorado.

The latest poll shows the two men dead-level. Their national parties are pouring in money, making it the costliest race Arkansas has ever seen.

Arkansans resent the way their state's name has been blackened during Mr Clinton's presidency, but few blame him personally. If, for sentimental reasons, the state's Democrats turn out to support their home-grown President in his last election, Mr Bryant should squeak in. If they stay at home because a Clinton victory seems assured,

Mr Bryant will lose. "Clinton at the top of the ticket is keeping Bryant in the race," says Charles Cook, a leading political analyst.

It is four years since Mr Clinton left Little Rock for Washington, but this race is a legacy of his 12 years as Governor. He and the state's two veteran senators, Dale Bumpers and David Pryor, dominated the Arkansas Democratic party so long that no new talent could develop.

Mr Bryant, the state's Attorney-General, is a remarkably weak replacement for the popular Mr Pryor, retiring after 18 years. He is a humourless man of 58, described by Max Brantley, editor of the pro-Democrat Arkansas Times, as a "plodder". By contrast, Mr Hutchinson is a personable, energetic 47-year-old family man. Personality matters almost more than party in a small place like Arkansas.

November 5 promises to be quite a night in Little Rock. The President and his supporters will be celebrating his seemingly inevitable re-election outside the old state house. Right next door, in the Doubletree Hotel, Mr Hutchinson may well be celebrating the capture of the President's old field.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25 1996

## Halifax investors in line for £1,000 windfall



Mike Ellis, left, and David Gilchrist

**BORROWERS** and savers with the Halifax are in line for an average £1,000 bonus each when the building society becomes a bank in June next year. The payout will come in the form of free shares, which will be issued to all qualifying members when the society converts to a public listed company with a market capitalisation of £10 billion. Members will be sent full details of the demutualisation plans in January, when they will be told how much they can expect as a windfall bonus. The document will also give an indication of the likely price range of Halifax shares, based on prevailing market conditions. The Halifax announced yesterday that it had abandoned its right to five years of takeover protection from the date of its

floatation. The five-year rule is designed to give societies time to adjust to the rigours of being a quoted company and is enshrined in building society legislation. The decision gives Halifax the freedom to use its free capital as it wishes, but lays it open to hostile takeover bids. The only UK-quoted company that might consider a takeover is HSBC, the international bank capitalised at £22.6 billion and the parent of Midland Bank. Prudential, the insurance giant, is keen to acquire a building society and might consider a merger. However, David Gilchrist, general manager of Halifax, said he was "not concerned" about a takeover. He believed the newly floated company would be too big. "We will be one of the top 25 companies in the FT-SE 100 after conversion and it would be odd for us to be protected in this way."

Halifax will convert by transferring its business to an existing subsidiary and floating it, rather than creating a new company for the share issue. By choosing this option the society will need at least half of its members to vote for the conversion. Rob Thomas, building societies analyst with UBS, said that under the five-year rule the Halifax would have had to set aside 50 per cent of its free capital to protect members against the risk of it becoming insolvent. Other societies planning to float — the Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock — are unlikely to follow the Halifax's lead. Halifax has also announced that it will write next month to each of its members who could be eligible for free shares, giving information about their account balances and a reminder that they should have at

least £100 in their accounts on December 31. This allows them to vote on conversion, a key factor in determining eligibility to receive free shares. If investing eligibility members are eligible for the variable distribution of extra free shares, in addition to the basic payout, they may need to top up their share accounts to match their balance at November 25, 1994, one of the qualifying dates. A special general meeting will be held at the Sheffield Arena in February. Members will receive details of their proposed share allocation in April or May, and Halifax shares will be listed on the London Stock Exchange in June. It intends to set up a share-dealing service, which will allow members to trade free for a certain period after conversion.

Pennington, page 27

## £50m shortfall in National Savings books

BY ROBERT MILLER AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE Government's savings arm has an unexplained £50 million black hole, according to a damning report published today. Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office (NAO), in a 36-page document, lists a catalogue of serious accounting errors at National Savings, which looks after more than £57 billion on behalf of 30 million people. Many of these are retired, and have holdings in Pensioners Bonds, or are younger people under 18, with Children's Bonus Bonds purchased for them by relatives and godparents. So alarmed is Sir John over the accounting procedures for looking after savers' cash at National Savings, which raises money from the public to help fund the Government's borrowing requirements, that he has taken the unusual step of issuing the

special report. The NAO's comptroller and auditor general, who is independent of the Government, says "achievement of a better standard of financial reporting should be a high priority" at National Savings. Money held by National Savings which was headed by David Butler during the period in question, is guaranteed by the Government. In the event of a shortfall, taxpayers would be expected to foot the bill through the Consolidated Fund. Mr Butler, who retired from his post last autumn, has taken up a role at the Princess Royal's Trust for Carers. His post was advertised offering a package in excess of £100,000. Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the department which oversees National Savings, said last night: "The NAO report is a matter of concern. I have spoken to Peter Bateau, the new head of National Savings, about this personally. Savers' money is not at risk."

was also identified from Post Office Counters to National Savings and a further £28 million was found missing between National Savings accounts and the total of its customer balances for investment and ordinary deposits. The problems with the accounts have been so difficult to unravel that it was not until Wednesday this week that Sir John was able to lay before Parliament the National Savings accounts for 1993 and 1994. He says in his report today: "Although the level of detected fraud at the agency is low, the problems identified weaken the agency's financial control systems whose purposes include the prevention and the detection of error and fraud. They also make it difficult to establish the precise liability of the Exchequer to National Savings investors with the possibility that provision may have to be made in the future from public funds to meet liabilities to investors not currently reflected in the accounts."

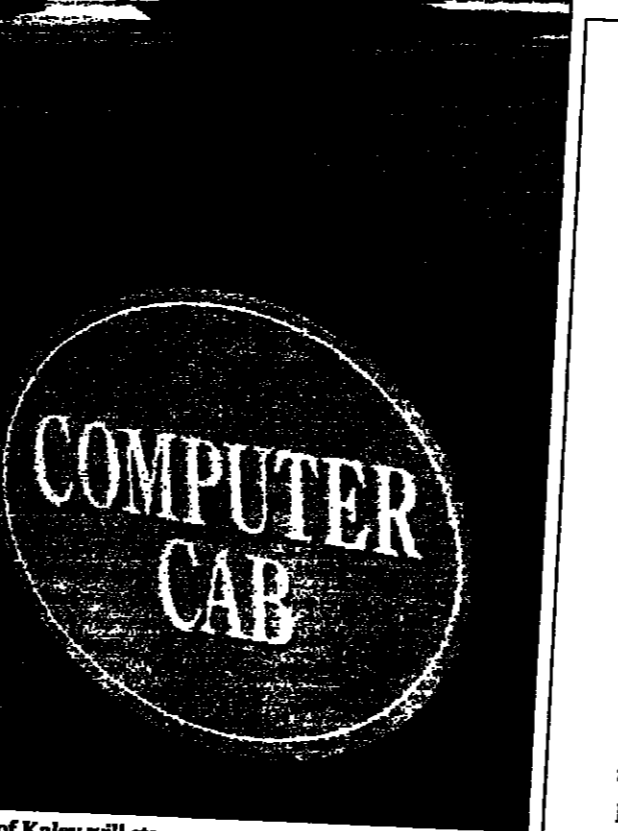
### Emap acts to resolve split over rules row

BY OLIVER AUGUST AND JASON NISSE

EMAP, the publishing group, will call an extraordinary meeting to resolve a boardroom split between Sir John Hoskyns, the chairman, and two non-executive directors who attacked him over a change in the articles of association. Professor Ken Simmonds and Joe Cooke objected to rule changes that could be used to force them off the board without consulting shareholders. The board, with the exception of the two non-executives, will now ask shareholders to approve their removal at the egm. Emap said: "The board gave unanimous backing, with the exception of two non-executive directors, to Sir John Hoskyns following a call for his removal from one of those two directors, Professor Simmonds."

The most glaring shortfall relates to a temporary holding account that acts as a feeder for money handed over by the public before it is placed in the relevant account for each National Savings product. By its own figures, National Savings said it was owed £37 million by investors, while a related bank account was £28 million overdrawn. Sir John describes the discrepancy as "significant unexplained balances" and points out that investors cannot owe money to the agency as their accounts are not credited until money has been received. He adds that there is "an increased potential risk that fraud and error could go undetected due to a failure to investigate promptly unexplained balances."

National Savings has blamed systems errors. Sir John, however, says that until a full review of the balance is completed, he will not know whether the taxpayer will have to meet the shortfall. A £12 million deficit in cash challenge Reuters's traditional dominance of the estimated \$5 billion market place. Mr Sharples, who set up the company with David Taylor, owns 54 per cent of ICV shares and the 100-strong staff own 10 per cent. Mr Sharples and Mr Taylor, who are set to net \$57 million and \$18 million respectively from the sale of their successful "real-time" data and news business company, will remain as chairman and chief executive. The second part of the deal brings in Dow Jones, one of America's leading providers of news and market information, and which also publishes *The Wall Street Journal*. Dow Jones Telecast, which provides real time share price information from 129 stock exchanges is to link up with Primark and ICV. The new partnership will give clients, such as traders, performance analysts and fund managers, instant access to live information and financial news as well as historical data on companies, their corporate earnings and broker estimates and research from one source. Mr Sharples, who also heads GNI, the derivatives broking firm, said that ICV wanted to broaden its base outside the UK market and the firm had talked to a number of parties. He added that the choice of Primark "was a meeting of kindred spirits" and that he was "happily" locked in to run ICV in the future. Joseph Kasputys, chairman of Primark, said: "In the UK alone, ICV and Datastream have combined revenues of over \$100 million annually. By bringing these two operations together under a tested management team, we can combine their capabilities to deliver integrated real-time and historical information products."



Geoff Kaley will stage a convention for taxi drivers

## Cabbies may opt for a market trip

BY OLIVER AUGUST

LONDON'S taxi drivers may soon have something else to complain about in addition to traffic jams, foreign tourists, politicians and lack of tips — the poor performance of their share options. More than 5,000 drivers have an interest in Computer Cabs, a subsidiary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, a co-operative that is considering a listing on the Alternative Investment Market. Computer Cabs's flotation plans arise from the successful testing of the first satellite-based taxi-locating network in the UK. The new Global Positioning System will cost £7.5 million and the company wants to raise half through the stock market. A final decision on the float will be taken at a cabbie convention on November 17. Geoff Kaley, managing director, said: "The convention could go on all day and all night knowing the drivers. We don't want to leave a bitter taste by not giving everyone a chance to have their say."

Mr Kaley expects that 30 to 40 per cent of the equity will be floated and that no dividends will be paid in the first two or three years. All cabbies will be encouraged to buy shares and may be eligible for a discount or at least get priority allocations. Computer Cabs has had 18 years of uninterrupted profits. Its results make it the largest operator in the UK licensed taxi industry. Turnover for the year to September 30, 1995, was £33.5 million, with pre-tax profits of £40,000. Results for the year just ended are expected to show turnover of more than £36 million and pre-tax profits of not less than £500,000. Mr Kaley hopes to expand Computer Cabs to Glasgow and Manchester using extra profits made from business gained through the Global Positioning System. The system is technically more advanced than similar networks operated by the military. He said: "We have to operate in very deep canyons, especially in the narrow streets with tall buildings in the City."

## Sharples nets \$57m from ICV sale

BY ROBERT MILLER

CHRISTOPHER Sharples, former head of the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog, is set to net around \$57 million from the sale of ICV, the private company that runs the Stock Exchange's company news service. ICV, set up by Mr Sharples in 1981, is being acquired by Primark, the US business information company that owns Datastream in the UK, for about \$105 million in cash and shares. At the same time Primark and ICV are to team up with Dow Jones in an Anglo-American financial information partnership to

challenge Reuters's traditional dominance of the estimated \$5 billion market place. Mr Sharples, who set up the company with David Taylor, owns 54 per cent of ICV shares and the 100-strong staff own 10 per cent. Mr Sharples and Mr Taylor, who are set to net \$57 million and \$18 million respectively from the sale of their successful "real-time" data and news business company, will remain as chairman and chief executive. The second part of the deal brings in Dow Jones, one of America's leading providers of news and market information, and which also publishes *The Wall Street Journal*. Dow Jones Telecast, which provides real time share price information from 129 stock exchanges is to link up with Primark and ICV. The new partnership will give clients, such as traders, performance analysts and fund managers, instant access to live information and financial news as well as historical data on companies, their corporate earnings and broker estimates and research from one source. Mr Sharples, who also heads GNI, the derivatives broking firm, said that ICV wanted to broaden its base outside the UK market and the firm had talked to a number of parties. He added that the choice of Primark "was a meeting of kindred spirits" and that he was "happily" locked in to run ICV in the future. Joseph Kasputys, chairman of Primark, said: "In the UK alone, ICV and Datastream have combined revenues of over \$100 million annually. By bringing these two operations together under a tested management team, we can combine their capabilities to deliver integrated real-time and historical information products."

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### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES: FTSE 100 3989.4 (-28.0), FTSE All share 1965.25 (-11.09), Nikkei 21003.49 (-78.68), New York Dow Jones 9966.82 (-37.64), S&P Composite 704.28 (-2.88). US RATE: Federal Funds 5.75% (5.75%), Long Bond 98 1/8% (98 1/8%), Yield 6.87% (6.87%). LONDON MONEY: 3-month interbank 5 1/4% (5%), Lite long gil 100% (100%), Future (Dec) 100% (100%). NEW YORK: \$/£ 1.5921\* (1.5928), London 1.5914 (1.5964), DM 2.4221 (2.4319), SF 8.1827 (8.2211), Yen 112.83\* (112.82), \$ Index 88.5 (88.6). \$/¥: Tokyo close Yen 112.76. MONTHLY SEA OIL: Brent 15-day (Jan) \$22.25 (\$23.45). GOLD: London close \$383.05 (\$383.55) \* denotes midday trading price

Plunge in profits at Philips exceeds forecasts

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, yesterday reported a fall in its third-quarter profits that was even more severe than most analysts had feared.

The group also announced a £400 million extraordinary restructuring charge for the final quarter. Shares in Philips fell by 5 per cent on the Amsterdam bourse.

Consequently we anticipate we will recognise a charge in the fourth quarter of 1996 of approximately one billion guilders before tax.

Philips said that the expected recovery in its sales and income had not materialised.

The group said: "In addition to the lower than expected sales growth and increasing price erosion in various markets, income was affected by unfavourable developments, particularly in the semiconductor industry and in passive components."

The Dutch union representing the Philips workforce said that it expected the shedding of 2,500 jobs in The Netherlands.

A union spokeswoman said: "The 2,500 job losses we foresee come on top of the 1,000 jobs which will be scrapped under a previously announced reorganisation."



Sir John Egan, left, chief executive of BAA, and Russell Watts, finance director, with a three-dimensional model of Terminal 5

CAA smooths path for funding of Terminal 5

THE Civil Aviation Authority has rejected a harsh pricing formula for landing charges at London's three major airports.

Cliff Paice, the CAA's director of economic regulation, admitted the regime might be seen to be "kind" to BAA but indicated that the pricing formula was endorsed by airline customers keen to support the construction of Terminal 5.

The next regulatory review to take into account BAA's earnings over 1997-2002, which have been set higher to allow the company to support its £4 billion construction programme.

BAA yesterday welcomed the proposals but described the formula as "challenging". A spokesman said that the allowance of a 70p increase in the charge per passenger for the expected abolition of European duty-free sales in 1999 was insufficient to cover the lost income.

Millennium Chemicals slides after demerger

MILLENNIUM Chemicals has reported a steep fall in third-quarter profits to \$155 million, from \$215 million, in its first financial results since the demerger from Hanson.

Millennium, the largest producer of polyethylene products in America, suffered a 10 per cent fall in earnings from polyethylene, to \$94 million.

Workers pile on the hours

THE elusive "feel-good" factor is starting to filter through to British industry, but workers are paying a big price by putting in up to 20 extra hours a week because of heavy workloads.

Working extra hours was motivated by a sense of obligation for 57 per cent of the respondents, while about 16 per cent said that they needed the money.

Working extra hours was motivated by a sense of obligation for 57 per cent of the respondents, while about 16 per cent said that they needed the money.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Liquidation likely at Classic Bloodstock II

CLASSIC BLOODSTOCK II, the racing investment company that raised £2.7 million from thousands of investors in late 1994, is expected to take the first steps towards voluntary liquidation today.

Irish papers for sale

MORE than a year after they disappeared from newsstands throughout the Republic of Ireland, the three newspaper titles in the Press Group are up for sale.

Record income at P&G

PROCTER & GAMBLE achieved a 9 per cent increase in net income to a record \$799 million in the third quarter from \$86 million in spite of a decline in worldwide sales.

Virgin may lift air bid

VIRGIN EXPRESS said that it may increase its offer for Air Liberté, the ailing French carrier, to try to trump a bid by British Airways.

Germany holds rates

THE Bundesbank yesterday kept leading German interest rates unchanged. The discount rate stays at 2.5 per cent and the Lombard rate remains at 4.5 per cent.

Whitbread to sell chain

WHITBREAD is seeking a buyer for its Keg restaurants, the 81-strong Canadian and North-West American chain. The company, which sold its Australian Keg restaurants last year, declined to put a value on the operation, which it said is trading profitably and growing sales.

Pace wins French order

PACE MICRO TECHNOLOGY, the world's largest manufacturer of satellite receivers, has won a £25 million order from Canal Plus, the French pay-TV broadcaster, for its decoders.

Nasdaq game plan

EIDOS, the computer games manufacturer, is seeking a listing on the Nasdaq exchange in an effort to raise up to \$70 million to fund its US expansion.

Index points to growth

A KEY consumer indicator yesterday signalled a considerable increase in the forces driving the British economic expansion next year, suggesting a sharp pick up in the rate of growth.

Deutsche Bank sees 27% rise

DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany's largest bank, reported a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to DM3 billion for the first nine months of 1996 in spite of the fiasco at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in London.

The gain was down primarily to commission-based revenue, which rose by DM1 billion over the period, the bank said, while interest income was only slightly higher.

Changes to stamp duty cheer City

THE Stock Exchange yesterday welcomed new rules on stamp duty for trading in UK shares by market-makers and broker-dealers that were announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Mr Clarke said that under the new regime relief from stamp duty and stamp duty reserve tax would be available to firms registered as intermediaries on any recognised investment exchange or European Economic Area regulated market.

Tax inquiry 'heavy-handed'

THE Inland Revenue has been accused of "prejudiced" and "heavy-handed" behaviour by an independent Special Commissioner.

The accusation comes after a lengthy tax investigation that saw an undercover officer counting the number of whitebait served at a restaurant in Southend, Essex.

Table with columns for Bank, Rate, and Bank. Lists various banks and their corresponding rates.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

C.P. POKPHAND CO. LTD. (Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability). The Interim Report of C.P. Pokphand Co. Ltd. (the "Company") will be posted to shareholders on 28th October, 1996.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES. TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE OR FAX: 0171-782 7827

LEGAL NOTICES

LANGSTON YACHTING. Notice to boaters giving permission to use the Langston Yacht Club moorings at 210 Preston Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, for the purpose of mooring their boats.

LEGAL NOTICES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. Notice is hereby given that the partnership of Messrs. J. & S. Dayman, Limited, has been dissolved as from the 1st day of October 1996.



What next for floated society? European Court ruling unlikely to spark rush CBI's bland formula for change

# No Xtra help needed at Halifax

THE HALIFAX is to be congratulated on refusing a five-year protection period from takeover, even if the society's motives may not be entirely pure and the risk being taken on is not as great as it might appear. This is going to be the biggest single extension of private share ownership in the country since the 1980s, stripping even the privatisation programme of the past decade and a half.

Between 1980 and 1990, the number of private shareholders grew by about eight million. Most joined the share-owning classes by buying into BT, British Gas or the other big public utilities. The Halifax will have nine million shareholders from the free share-dealing service on offer to push a few back out of the revolving door, and will be worth £10 billion. Such a company is not immune from attack — even ICI attracted Lord Hanson's roving eye — but you have to be a pretty incompetent manager to get taken over at that size.

The society's reasons for shunning a government-sanctioned defence against hostile takeover are down to corporate ambition. Those building societies that decide to convert by switching the business to a company are required to create a priority liquidation distribution right.

This ties up half the capital as an insurance against subsequent failure. The Halifax route, transferring its business to an existing subsidiary and floating this, allows more cash to be spent on acquisitions or other expansion, but does not bring with it any restriction on the size of shareholding outsiders can take. So far, so technical. There is a strong case that this five-year umbrella for most societies is unfair to the new investors, who might expect a management incentivised by the fear of takeover worrying most public companies. Fair point; but *vide* gift horses and dentists, they never paid for the shares in the first place. Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, has given himself more freedom to buy another society, but the strange delay since plans to convert were announced two years ago means he has probably missed the boat on the Woolwich and the Alliance & Leicester, both of which will hit the stock market within months of the Halifax. The other, smaller ones will, of course, have that five-year protection.

An easier option would be

one of the life insurance companies. This is the way the market is moving, and any hesitation come next summer's market debut will not look too smart once the supply of these starts to dry up. The most radical move would be a merger with one of the bigger companies. The Prudential is known to have designs on the Woolwich, but a combined Pru-Halifax would be a mighty force indeed on the high street.

However, one does wonder how the personalities of Peter Davis, chief executive of the Pru, and Mr Blackburn might mix.

## VAT repayment bill doesn't add up

AS Private Fraser of Dad's Army would put it, "We're all doomed!" The government will fall, the nation will go bust, pensioners will starve in the streets while the new breed of VAT billionaires and their floozies flaunt their riches before a sullen populace. The bill to the Exchequer from yesterday's



PENNINGTON

European Court VAT ruling has been put at £40 billion. That figure is demonstrably wrong, as the accountants at whose door it was laid, Coopers & Lybrand, freely admit. Still, it did have Whitehall sources muttering about the damage done by "back of the envelope calculations by accountants who like seeing their names in the papers." The figure is wrong because the predictions on which it is based are not going to be fulfilled. It assumes every VAT review of its kind going to Europe, and there are said to be about a hundred, will succeed. It assumes that every award will be backdated to April Fool's Day 1973, the black day when VAT first appeared on these shores.

The VATman has been on a bad streak of late, losing to voluntary sports bodies and opticians, but he is not going to luck out every time. There is no way all awards will be backdated to 1973, because many rely on Euro-legislation brought in after that date. Finally, there is a rule to be introduced into the Budget that will limit awards to just three years' VAT back-payments.

This is being challenged by a motley bunch of appellants, including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the store group GUS, but once it is law their efforts will be as naught. It might seem unfair that the Customs & Excise allows itself to collect six years' of unpaid VAT where this is owed, but there you are.

It is clearly unacceptable for the Exchequer to have such a huge potential bill hanging over it, and trying to limit that liability seems only good government. If huge repayments are sanctioned by the European Court, from which, surprise, there is no appeal, they will have to be met by the taxpayer. And do you really believe the firms who

win such repayments will use the money to cut their prices to those consumers who were overcharged in the first place?

## Pat on the head for watchdogs

NEVER a dull moment in the utilities, what with bumper salaries, shareholder payouts and falling standards of service. Next week begins the first of two rounds of parliamentary inquiry into the performance of those people on whose regulation the utilities we must rely.

The CBI presented yesterday an apologetic halfway house approach, one so crumbling no estate agent would touch it. No overhaul of the pricing formula — which its critics say has meant large incentives for the companies and their shareholders and little obvious benefits flowing to the consumers. No utilities commission — which would obliterate the cult of personality and also the dangers of immersion into an industry, of going native, that regulation of a single sector can bring.

No, the CBI's answer to the fuss that has grown up around the privatised utilities is... evolution. All the regulators should retain their individual offices but be a little better advised from a wider range of opinion. Panels should surround the regulator, but with the measured powers of non-executives.

Quite what this would solve is hard to see. The regulators are meant to consult on a wide basis. But then, despite its criticism of how the regulators are perceived, the CBI thinks they are not doing too badly really. And who arrived at this ground-breaking advocacy of the status quo with one or two nips and tucks? A CBI panel with more than a quarter of its members drawn from the major utilities.

## Sound thinking

WHEN British builders were brought in to renovate our rather grand but dilapidated embassy at one of the former Iron Curtain capitals a few years ago, they found their local predecessors had carried out some unusual and extensive electrical work. The place was bugged to the rafters, to no one's great surprise. Another builder, Taylor Woodrow, has won the job to rebuild our Moscow embassy. The company says it is employing its own electricians.

# ICI pleases market as savings begin to work

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Imperial Chemical Industries recovered yesterday after the City detected a turning point to the company's problems with its third-quarter figures.

The share price rose 17p to 792½p, although the results fell at the bottom end of analysts' expectations and caused some to mark down next year's forecasts. But positive sentiment surrounded ICI's restructuring.

The company, which is implementing a plan started in 1995 to deliver cost savings of £400 million by the end of next year, recorded a pre-tax profits

drop of 47 per cent to £131 million for the third quarter compared with the same period last year.

Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman, said the lower profits reflected tough trading conditions in industrial chemicals. He said cyclical price falls in polyester, titanium dioxide and chlorine, along with rising oil prices, had impacted on margins. But destocking, which has dogged the sector, was showing signs of abating and that sales volumes increased across most areas. ICI drew some cheer from its paints division, where profits

jumped to £57 million, from £32 million. Much of the rise was fuelled by acquisitions. Paint prices increased 3 per cent, while sales of decorative paint in the UK rose 18 per cent.

Materials profits for the nine months of £161 million were up 12 per cent, although the company complained of difficult market conditions. Volumes in acrylics have been lower than last year, although the third quarter saw a lift in volumes from the same period of 1995.

The company reduced its workforce by 4 per cent in the

first nine months and said it was on target to deliver the promised 5 per cent annual reduction in jobs. Worldwide, the jobs toll has been 950 this year, about 150 of them from the UK.

Alan Spall, finance director, said that the sweeping cost reduction programme was ahead of schedule and that savings of £90 million had been delivered this year. At its interim stage, ICI had taken a £137 million exceptional charge in order to speed up the efficiency drive.

Tempos, page 28

# Baird closures put focus on M&S work

By KEITH RODGERS

WILLIAM BAIRD, clothing supplier to Marks & Spencer, plans to cut up to 500 jobs and stop dealing with a range of retailers, as part of a divestment programme.

David Suddens, chief executive, yesterday outlined proposals to sell the remaining engineering business, non-clothing activities, a number of smaller brands and the non-M&S contract supply operations. The shake-up, which includes a stock reduction programme, will lead to provisions of between £23.6 million and £28.6 million this year. Mr Suddens said William Baird plans to close one

factory next month, another in the second half of 1997, and would consider shutting a smaller third operation. The two larger sites employ about 200 people each. It expects to see overseas production expand.

The company plans to focus on its M&S contract clothing, which currently accounts for about 30 per cent of sales, and its UK and international core branded clothing business. It is in negotiations with two potential bidders over the sale of ACR Heat Transfer, its engineering business.

M&S Down Under, page 29

# News Corp issue to raise \$1bn

By JASON NISSE

THE NEWS CORPORATION is to issue \$1 billion of securities that will be exchangeable into ordinary shares of American depository shares of British Sky Broadcasting, in which it has a 40 per cent holding via News International.

The securities, Exchangeable Trust Originated Preferred Securities, are to be issued by News America Holdings Inc by the middle of next month and the issue will be managed by Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank. News Corp is the parent company of *The Times*.

The securities carry warrants that allow the holders to choose to swap them for BSKyB shares. Under the terms of the bonds, News

America will not be required to deliver the actual shares but may deliver cash instead.

The issue capitalises on the strong performance of BSKyB shares since they were floated last year at 243p. The shares hit a high of 696½p this week. Since then they have fallen back, and lost 39½p to close at 596½p yesterday.

The shares were affected by a report that the European Commission was to investigate BSKyB's four-year deal with the FA Carling Premiership to transmit live football. The Commission denied the report. "There has been no complaint about this deal," a spokesman for Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, said.

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Profit-taking pulls shares below key 4,000 level

The stock market's recent record-breaking gains were further eroded yesterday. Profit-taking and a weak Wall Street pulled the market back below the key 4,000 level...



Shares of Emap, of which Robin Miller is chief executive, fell

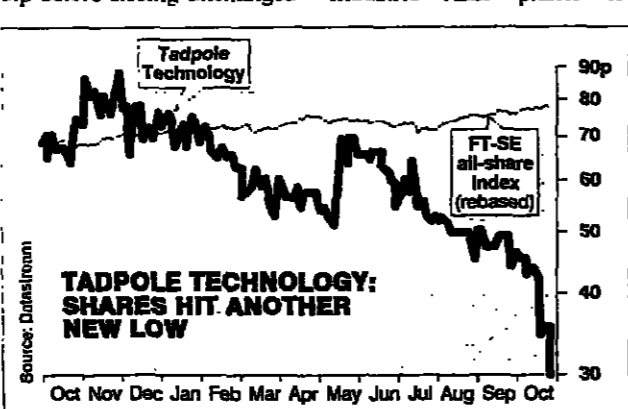
third-quarter production report from RTZ helped it add 1 1/2 p to 96 1/2 p. The mining group said production was ahead in nearly all its areas...

Dragonair, the Hong Kong based airline. Millennium and Cophore, the hotel group, slid 4 1/2 p to 339 1/2 p in the wake of the decision by Principal Hotels to pull its stock market flotation.

Principal's advisers blame weak institutional demand for a number of other hotel floats this year, including that of Millennium.

Victory in a case against UK Customs over VAT paid on discount promotions failed to inspire shares in Argos, the retailer, which fell 5 p to 78 1/2 p.

Encouraging news on the development of a number of new drugs helped Scotia Holdings to climb 25 1/2 p to 56 1/2 p. Phase three clinical trials in the US of Foscan, its cancer treatment, are scheduled to start next year...



TADPOLE TECHNOLOGY: SHARES HIT ANOTHER NEW LOW

Shares in Kenwood Appliances ended unchanged at 24 1/2 p in spite of rumours of bid interest, subsequently denied, from France and Italy.

The early rises in the market were not sustained and by the close the December series of the long gilt was off 1 1/2 p to £109 1/2 p. In shorts, the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended flat at £103 1/2 p.

MAJOR INDICES table with columns for New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, and London.

RECENT ISSUES table listing companies like Airtrex, Charles Taylor, Deltan Retail, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES table listing companies like Brooke Tool n/p, Calm Energy n/p, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES table listing companies like Brit Biotech, Business Post, ICI, etc.

MAJOR INDICES table with columns for New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, and London.

TEMPUS Happy landings

OTHER monopoly utilities live in fear of their regulators, but BAA leads a charmed life. The CAA's proposal yesterday that it monitor the airport group's performance annually was hardly alarming...

current year, it should contribute £370 million to turnover of £1.3 billion with most of the balance coming from the shops that threaten to fill every nook and cranny of the airports.

These proposals were the best that BAA could hope for. The company angled for an unadjusted price increase equal to the retail price index but that request was based on the premise that those who do not ask, never receive.

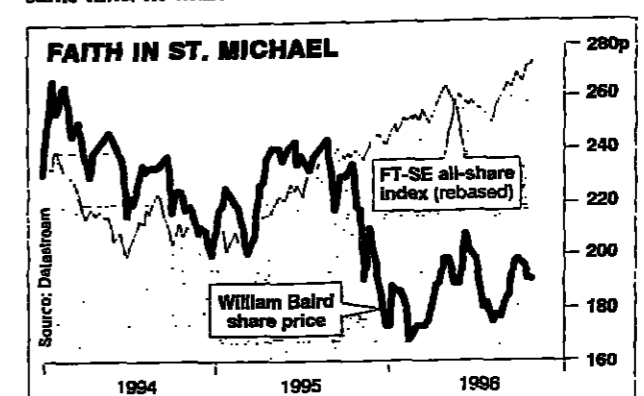
William Baird A BIG shake-up at William Baird, the clothing group, had been mooted but the scale of the exercise outlined yesterday raised not a few eyebrows.

FOR a company that was shifting away from commodities, ICI's third quarter figures presented a good imitation of a business in a cyclical downturn. Earnings from industrial chemicals disappeared altogether in the last quarter, knocked out by losses in PET and a poor performance from PTA.

But as this returns to its originally deflated placing price, and Jarvis remains in the doldrums, few investors reckon Principal would have fared better.

Principal Hotels PRINCIPAL HOTELS has become the pudding that the

fund managers left untouched on the table. Principal would have been the fifth hotel group to come to the market this year and only last month, its backers were certain that it would escape a repeat of the Thistle flop.



FAITH IN ST. MICHAEL

COMMODITIES table with columns for LIFFE, CRUDE OILS, and PRODUCTS (\$/MT).

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES table with columns for FTSE 100, FTSE 250, Three Month Sterling, etc.

MONEY RATES (%) table with columns for Base Rates, Treasury Bills, Prime Bank Bills, etc.

DOLLAR RATES table with columns for Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, etc.

WALL STREET table with columns for Airtrex, AMR Corp, Amgen, etc.

LIFE OPTIONS table with columns for Calls, Puts, and various stock options.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%) table with columns for Currency, 7 day, 1 month, 3 month, 6 month, 12 month.

BANK/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co) table with columns for Bullion, Platinum, Silver, Palladium.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table with columns for Mkt Rates for Oct 24, Range, Close, 1 month, 3 month.

WALL STREET table with columns for Airtrex, AMR Corp, Amgen, etc.



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Young at art

AFTER the success of their sponsorship of the Picasso and Cézanne exhibitions...

Bubbly pals

ROGER SEELIG, a key participant in the Guinness saga, looked remarkably well quaffing champagne...

OH DEAR, what a palaver at Versailles, the AIM-listed trading company that...



"It's money in the bank"

Rat catch

DOES NatWest Markets know what it has taken on with the appointment of three senior sales professionals...

Grand futures

ANYONE dipping into James Morton's latest book could do worse than turn to the appendix...

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW JANET BUSH



Politicians chase big prize with policy on a small scale

Conservatives are making up ground on the question of economic competence

The Conservative Party slowly seems to be regaining its traditional edge over Labour in public perceptions...

MORI, which compiles regular polls for this newspaper, asks voters which is the best party on the big issues...

Both, too, are pledged to keeping inflation low so there will be monetary discipline too.

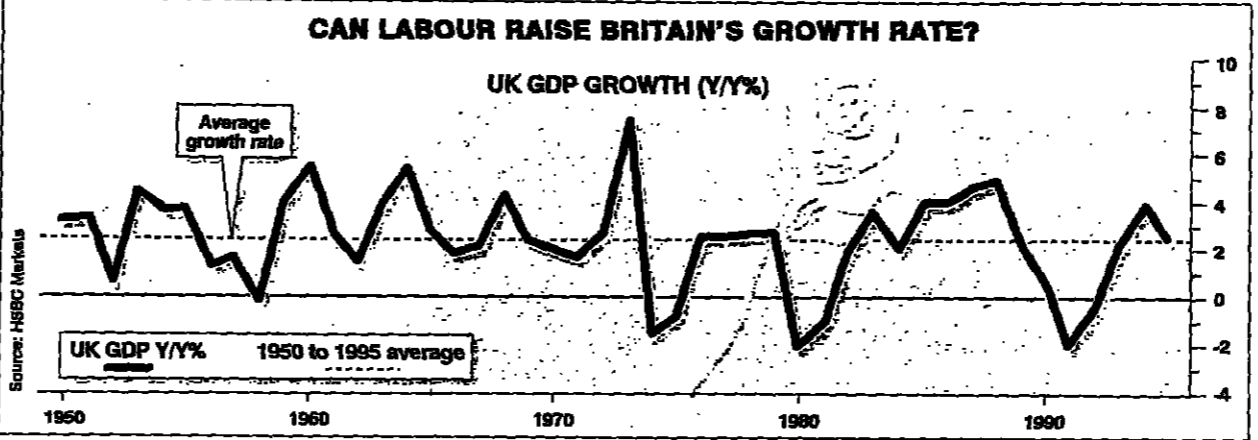
The potential for added value on economic policy therefore resides in micro-reform or supply side change.



Kenneth Clarke, left, will offer voters more of the same...



Gordon Brown hopes to offer incentives for investment



Britain's sustainable growth rate has already risen from the 2.25 per cent normally assumed...

Privately, the Chancellor argues that the growth rate is now nearer to 2.75 per cent because of the Conservative programme of deregulation...

It is impossible to know whether the growth rate has risen under Conservative economic management.

The intellectual framework of its efforts is endogenous growth theory, so much lampooned when Mr Brown introduced it to an unsuspecting Britain two years ago.

Nick Crafts, of the London School of Economics, distinguishes two models of endogenous growth.

growth rate has been relatively low because it has underinvested. This strand of thinking looks at both human and physical capital...

Many economists — and the Conservative Party — are deeply suspicious of government intervention to achieve this, given the record of the 1950s to the 1970s of poor targeting of subsidies...

Labour appears to have moved away from a reliance on the latter, although Professor Crafts is alarmed by its windfall tax policy...

Of course, the problem with policies aimed at promoting higher long-term growth is that the pay-offs are so distant that few politicians would stake their re-election on them.

Addressing Britain's patchy record on R&D is only one narrow strand of the innovation approach. Mr Blair has committed himself to the three priorities of education, education and education...

a much smaller scale and is about making the current economic system work more efficiently. In this category come efforts to harmonise the tax and benefit system...

This work is not likely to have any impact on Britain's long-term growth rate but does have implications for the level of public borrowing...

The advantage of new Labour's economic team is that it is academically literate and relatively unburdened by the ideology of its predecessors.

Pragmatism is likely to rule. But some in Labour's ranks truly believe that to fail in raising the long-term growth rate of the economy would be to fail as a government.

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BUSINESS LETTERS

CBI suspicious of declaring any country 'the winner'

From the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry: Sir, Your report (October 17) on my speech to an Anglo-German business conference...

Informed debate on jurors in fraud trials

From Mr Keith Oliver: Sir, Pennington (Jury's out on fraud trials, October 18) does a considerable disservice to the jurors on the Maxwell trial...

There is no reason why informed debate on the use of jurors in cases of serious fraud should not be encouraged.

Plenty of shops but BAA still flops

From Sir Terence Conran: Sir, So BAA has taken its nation of shopkeepers to the USA (Jan Brodie, October 23) and the locals, it seems, like their 'air malls'...

Main purpose of airport should be uppermost in the design

From Professor Peter Campbell: Sir, While noting Sir John Egan's axiom that airports should be made more pleasant for travellers and more profitable for business...

Decision to drop Societies Bill is welcome

From Mr John Marshall: MP for Hendon South (Conservative): Sir, You quote a Treasury spokesman as saying that there is 'a real danger that more societies would convert to public companies'...

What Down Under may hold for M&S

The big three retailers paint a gloomy picture of the future, says Rachel Bridge

Ask any British expat in Australia what they miss most about home and the chances are that Marks & Spencer will be high on the list.

Along with English beer, a Saturday postal service and decent Sunday newspapers, M&S has been seen as one of the few essentials of life that Australia has been lacking.

That excitement is, however, unlikely to be shared by the participants in Australia's retailing scene, which since the start of the year have been complaining loudly and often about how fiercely competitive the market is and how tough trading conditions are.

The \$120 billion (£59.40 billion) retail sales cake is dominated by three players, all of whom have both food and non-food operations. Coles Myer, with 71 department stores, more than 500 supermarkets and 425 discount clothing stores is the main player with a 17 per cent market share.

Woolworths — no relation to the British version — controls about 10 per cent of the market. Finally there is David Jones, which has only 32 stores but has a significant presence at the top end of the business.

All three have painted a gloomy picture of the way ahead in the face of surveys that suggest that Australians are far more interested in spending on entertainment and gambling than on shopping.

At first glance the figures do not make cheery reading for a new competitor. Coles Myer's profits fell 34 per cent to \$280.4 million in the year to June 1996. Woolworths' profits were flat at \$234 million, while David Jones' profits of \$98.3 million failed to meet forecasts made when it floated a year ago.

However, retail analysts say that the problem is not so much to do with lack of consumer demand; rather it is with the industry itself, which has fallen into the trap of heavy price discounting and now finds itself unable to get out.

Over the past few years a rash of discount department stores has sprung up in Australia and the established players have slashed prices too in a desperate attempt to compete.

Peter Bartels, chief executive of Coles Myer, admitted: "Where once retailers used to shape consumers' preferences, now the roles are reversed. The customer is king and in every respect they are demanding more for less. In this environment, Coles Myer has taken the view that the maintenance of market share is of paramount importance."

At the same time there has been a race to open new stores in an attempt to make up for lost time in the late Eighties, when for many reasons a lack of capital expenditure left many of the retailers.

Simon Shakesheff, retail analyst at Macquarie Bank said: "There's this mad rush to get stores on the ground because there's a perception that there are only a certain number of prime retail sites left in Australia."

All of which, analysts contend, has left a gap at the quality end of the market. Adrian Richardson at First Pacific, the stockbroker, said: "A recurring criticism we have of the Australian non-food sector is basically that it is suffering from a lack of innovation, a lack of something new. There is a preoccupation with price rather than service. That has left a big opportunity for someone like Marks & Spencer to come in."

He added: "The Australian market is lacklustre in terms of retailing skills and hopefully the arrival of Marks & Spencer will prove to be a catalyst to accelerate the changes here."

Analysts argue that so far the biggest problem for Australian retailing has been the lack of incentive to change. Chris Tideman, the British former chief executive of Burton's retail arm in the UK, said that when he arrived in Australia to head David Jones last year he found a company far removed from his idea of a modern retail business.

The systems were quite appalling. "The only way to find out how much of a particular item had been sold, for example, was to ask every store to count up how many they had left on the shelves."

Advertisement for Lloyds Bank: THINKING OF SETTING UP YOUR OWN BUSINESS? GET THE FACTS YOU NEED FREE FROM LLOYDS BANK. It takes courage to start your own business, but you can feel more sure of success if you get information and support from Lloyds Bank.

# Principal abandons float plans

By Fraser Nelson

PRINCIPAL HOTELS has abandoned its plans to float on the Stock Exchange next month after failing to fetch the £110 million market value it had hoped for.

The company, which sought to raise £50 million from the float, said that its placing price had come under pressure. The flotation plans had suffered from "investor fatigue," being the fifth hotel to come to the stock market this year.

However, Scottish Highland Hotels, which like Principal consists of a small number of high-star hotels, yesterday confirmed that it still intends to seek a listing next month.

Hamish Grossart, Highland's chairman, said the company had enjoyed an "excellent reception" from institutions, and had already fixed a flotation price unaltered from its target two months ago. It is expected to join the market on November 11, priced at £30 million.

John Lewis, Principal's chairman who led a management buyout two years ago, said the institutional response had been encouraging, but the plans had been shelved when it became clear the share price would fall below expectations.

"It is understandable that our venture capital backers have chosen to support us rather than accept what they believe to be an inappropriate flotation price," he said.

The venture capitalists, led by NatWest Ventures, have agreed to provide extra funds to Principal, which it is expected to spend on its existing portfolio without making acquisitions.

The City registered little surprise at the news yesterday. One analyst said: "Once you've sat through presentations from companies telling you exactly the same thing, you do begin to get weary."

Thisle Hotels, which floated last month, had to settle for a £1 billion price tag, at the lowest end of expectations. Its shares yesterday fell back to the 170p flotation price. Jarvis Hotels, up 4½p at 113p, joined the market in June at 177p.

Tempus, page 28



John Lewis, of Principal, right, with John Tham, managing director of Cliveden, where Mr Lewis is also chairman

# Stakis to open hotel in Dublin

From Eileen McCabe in Dublin

STAKIS, the hotel and leisure group, is to open a four-star hotel near Dublin city centre. The 194-room hotel is to be built by Charlemont Properties, a Dublin property company, and is due to open next September. Under the deal, announced yesterday, Stakis has agreed to lease the hotel from Charlemont for an annual rent of Ir£1.19 million until 2005, when it can exercise an option to buy the property for about Ir£3 million.

The hotel at Charlemont Place will have conference facilities for up to 300 and underground parking. It will employ 130 people.

The Dublin hotel market is booming, with 25 hotels either under construction or in the planning process.

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of overseas visitors to the Republic of Ireland over the past couple of years. According to the World Tourism Organisation, Irish tourism growth was about 15 per cent last year, compared with a Euro-

pean average of 2 per cent. Stakis is currently developing a £16 million hotel and golf resort near Northern Ireland's main airport at Templepatrick.

The company yesterday refused to confirm stock market speculation that it is to announce the £300 million takeover of the Metropole hotel chain from Lohrro.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## RTZ-CRA output figures lift shares

RTZ-CRA, the mining company, cheered stock markets on both sides of the world yesterday, with third-quarter figures that showed that production of almost all minerals was ahead of the same period last year. Shares in CRA jumped 23 cents to close at A\$20.05 on the Australian stock market, helping the All-Ordinaries index reach a new high of 2377.6, while RTZ shares were up 1½ at 96½ in London. The star performance came from RTZ-CRA's Phase III expansion of its Escondido copper mine in Chile, which increased its copper output 63 per cent to 66,900 tonnes in the quarter to September and so helped RTZ-CRA's total copper production rise 9 per cent to 193,500 tonnes. Total refined copper production increased 45 per cent.

Aluminium production rose 11 per cent to 99,000 tonnes in the quarter compared with the same period last year, largely because of increased production at Bell Bay in Australia and the smelter expansion project at Tawa Point in New Zealand. Gold production was 5.6 per cent higher at 506,000 ounces. And US coal production was 6 per cent higher at 10.45 million tonnes on the back of increased demand for low sulphur coal from its Antelope, Colony and Spring Creek mines. Australian coal output was affected by industrial action leaving total coal production in the third quarter marginally down at 17.1 million tonnes.

## Boeing heads higher

BOEING, the aircraft maker, had a 13 per cent rise in third-quarter profits to \$254 million, from \$225 million a year ago, helped by an increase in sales and higher investment income. Revenues rose to \$5.6 billion, from \$4.38 billion, as it delivered a total of 54 airliners, compared with 51 last time. For the first nine months net income soared to \$841 million from \$175 million a year ago, when the company took a \$600 million charge related to an employee retirement programme.

## R-R in \$30m jets deal

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero engines manufacturer, is to participate in a \$100 million deal to supply engines for up to seven Airbus jets. The company is a major part of International Aero Engines, which builds V2500 engines for the A320, and its share in the contract for Dragonair of Hong Kong is thought to be worth more than \$30 million. The airline is buying two A320s with an option to purchase five more. Rolls recently announced its first-half order book had risen to £7 billion, with a further £1.55 billion to be booked.

## Shorts seeking staff

SHORT BROTHERS, the Belfast aerospace company, is to take on an extra 120 staff at its advanced composite production plants. The Bombardier subsidiary said yesterday that the jobs were being created to cope with demand as a result of increased aircraft production by its major customers, including other Bombardier companies, Boeing and Rolls-Royce. Earlier this year Shorts was forced to cut its workforce by almost 1,000 after the collapse of the Fokker company to which it supplied wing sets.

## Irish recruit abroad

A SCARCITY of qualified and experienced senior executives in the Republic of Ireland is forcing many companies in Dublin's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) to look abroad for recruits, a survey revealed yesterday. Almost 74 per cent of the 20 IFSC companies surveyed by Amrop International Ireland said they had recruited from overseas because they could not find Irish managers with appropriate qualifications and experience. Only 13 per cent said they had experienced problems settling expatriate recruits in Dublin.

## Eurotherm buys in US

EUROTHERM, the controls and instrumentation company based in Sussex, has bought Continental Industries Inc., of Phoenix, Arizona, for a cash consideration of \$4.5 million, it was announced yesterday. The company specialises in solid state switching device technology and its products will complement Eurotherm's existing power controllers, which are manufactured in France and the United States. Eurotherm shares fell 7p to 603p yesterday.

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CHANGING TIMES

# Equities continue to lose ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
25	100	Alcoholic Beverages			
26	100	Banks			
27	100	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
28	100	Building & Construct			
29	100	Building Materials			
30	100	Chemicals			
31	100	Distributors			
32	100	Diversified Industrials			
33	100	Engineering, Vehicles			
34	100	Engineering			
35	100	Food Manufacturers			
36	100	Healthcare			
37	100	Household Goods			
38	100	Insurance			
39	100	Investment Trusts			
40	100	Leisure & Hotels			
41	100	Manufacturing			
42	100	Media			
43	100	Mining			
44	100	Oil & Gas			
45	100	Other Financial			
46	100	Pharmaceuticals			
47	100	Printing & Paper			
48	100	Property			
49	100	Real Estate			
50	100	Support Services			
51	100	Telecommunications			
52	100	Textiles & Apparel			
53	100	Transport			
54	100	Retailers, Food			
55	100	Retailers, General			
56	100	Water			
57	100	Alternative Inv Market			

1996	Low	Company	Price	Yield	P/E
58	100	Alcoholic Beverages			
59	100	Banks			
60	100	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
61	100	Building & Construct			
62	100	Building Materials			
63	100	Chemicals			
64	100	Distributors			
65	100	Diversified Industrials			
66	100	Engineering, Vehicles			
67	100	Engineering			
68	100	Food Manufacturers			
69	100	Healthcare			
70	100	Household Goods			
71	100	Insurance			
72	100	Investment Trusts			
73	100	Leisure & Hotels			
74	100	Manufacturing			
75	100	Media			
76	100	Mining			
77	100	Oil & Gas			
78	100	Other Financial			
79	100	Pharmaceuticals			
80	100	Printing & Paper			
81	100	Property			
82	100	Real Estate			
83	100	Support Services			
84	100	Telecommunications			
85	100	Textiles & Apparel			
86	100	Transport			
87	100	Retailers, Food			
88	100	Retailers, General			
89	100	Water			
90	100	Alternative Inv Market			

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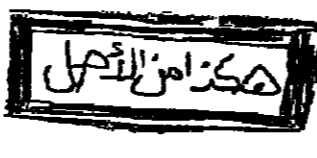
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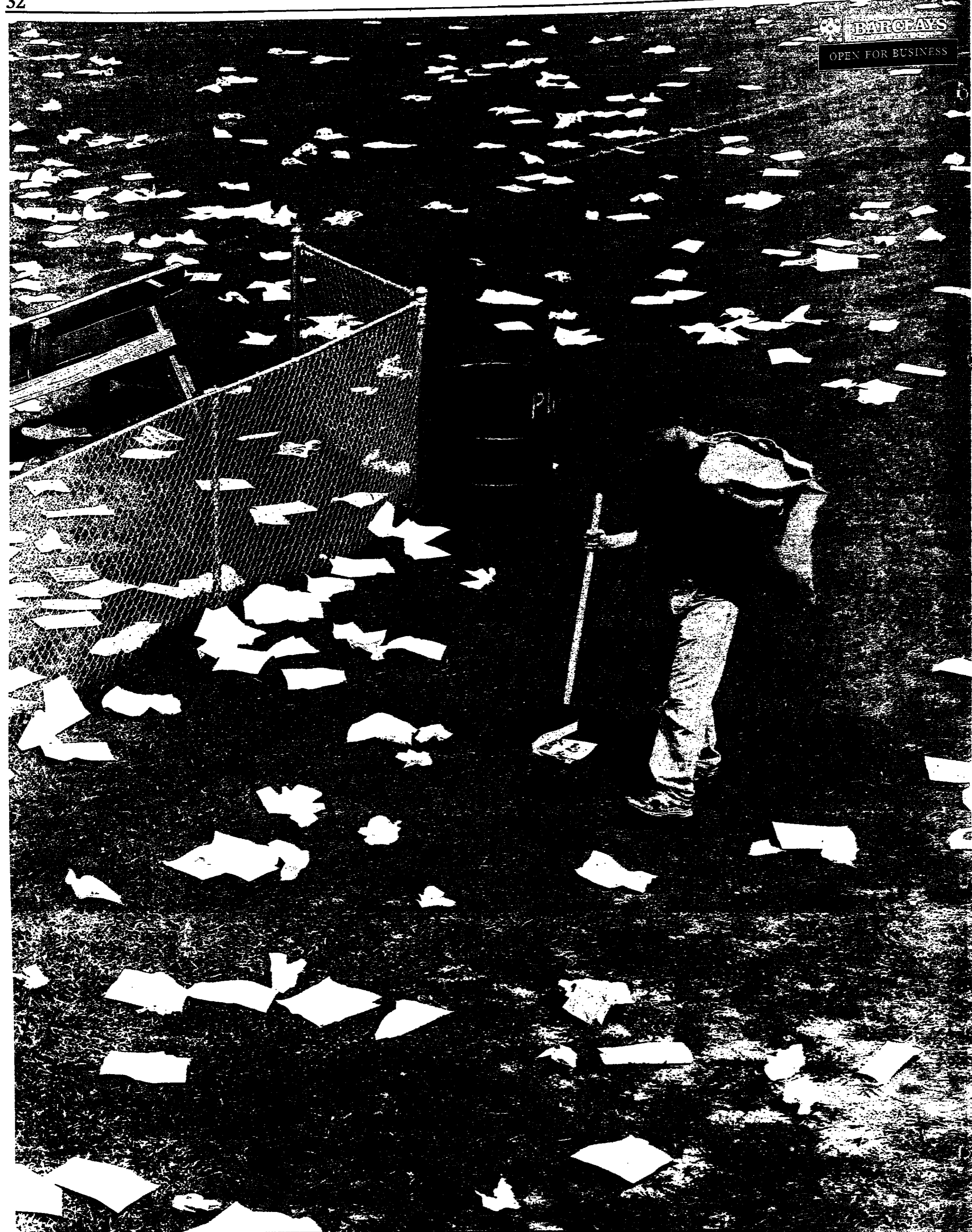
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92	100	Banks			
93	100	Breweries, Pubs & Rest			
94	100	Building & Construct			
95	100	Building Materials			
96	100	Chemicals			
97	100	Distributors			
98	100	Diversified Industrials			
99	100	Engineering, Vehicles			
100	100	Engineering			
101	100	Food Manufacturers			
102	100	Healthcare			
103	100	Household Goods			
104	100	Insurance			
105	100	Investment Trusts			
106	100	Leisure & Hotels			
107	100	Manufacturing			
108	100	Media			
109	100	Mining			
110	100	Oil & Gas			
111	100	Other Financial			
112	100	Pharmaceuticals			
113	100	Printing & Paper			
114	100	Property			
115	100	Real Estate			
116	100	Support Services			
117	100	Telecommunications			
118	100	Textiles & Apparel			
119	100	Transport			
120	100	Retailers, Food			
121	100	Retailers, General			
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Advertisement for Meridiana unit trusts. Text: 'With comfortable seats, porcelain plates and fine wines Meridiana is the gourmet business class.' Includes a small image of a plane and contact information.

Source: FT Information on CMI (Compound Annual Return)
\* Price includes a 1% commission
† Price Change does not include 1% commission

Ros Drinkwater introduces a two-page report on the United Kingdom's largest and most comprehensive cancer care charity

## When help is at hand

Marie Curie nurses care for 40 per cent of cancer patients ill at home

One in three of us is likely to be affected by cancer at some time in our lives. Marie Curie Cancer Care, the United Kingdom's largest and most comprehensive cancer care charity, exists to combat this chilling statistic.

Its activities are threefold: the provision of practical nursing care for patients in their own homes, free of charge; specialist palliative care offered at centres throughout Britain; and research into the prevention, early detection and improved treatment of cancer, carried out at the Marie Curie Research Institute near Oxford, Surrey. In addition, the charity offers an ongoing programme of education for healthcare professionals.

The hands-on, practical care given to patients in their own homes complements but differs from the work of other cancer nurses. Throughout the UK an army of 6,000 Marie Curie nurses provides more than 1.3 million nursing hours a year, caring for more than 23,000 patients, and giving their carers a break from the round-the-clock task of looking after a patient.

Marie Curie nurses look after more than 40 per cent of cancer patients seriously ill at home, but it is the aim of the charity to reach 50 per cent of this number. The decision as to the nature and quantity of care needed rests with the district nurse and is designed to suit the individual needs of each particular case. Those wishing to contact a Marie Curie nurse should contact their GP or district nurse.

With 11 hospice centres across Britain, Marie Curie Cancer Care provides by far the largest number of hospice beds outside the National



Patient care: more than 6,000 Marie Curie nurses provide 1.3 million nursing hours a year

Health Service. This year 4,500 patients, the highest figure ever achieved, have benefited from a programme of symptom control, pain relief, rehabilitation, respite care, terminal care, emotional support, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and spiritual care. Out-patient attendance has risen to 5,800, while the utilisation of day-care facilities reached the highest ever figure of 16,700 patient days. It is only very recently that palliative care has been included in the training of doctors.

Recent accolades bestowed on Marie Curie's palliative care specialists reflect the importance of this work. A new professorial chair has been created by the University of Wales College of Medicine for Dr Ilora Finlay, the medical director at the Marie Curie Centre in South Wales, and Dr Gill Ford, Marie Curie's medical director, has received an honorary doctorate from the Open University and has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh.



Marie Curie research

Cancer occurs when cell division runs out of control. The genetic damage which triggers the condition can be inherited or can be caused by factors such as diet, smoking, viruses or sunburn. The disease was probably present in the earliest cellular organisms. It has been identified in the graveyards of Ancient Egypt, and may even be the

cause of bone abnormalities found in fossil dinosaurs.

Modern cancer research began a century ago with the discovery of the previously unknown element of radium by Marie Curie. Despite the resources spent in the cause of research, it is only in recent years that dramatic progress in molecular technology has revolutionised our understanding of the disease.

At the Marie Curie Research Institute a programme of research examines the mechanisms responsible for the development of human cancer and uses the resulting knowledge for the benefit of cancer patients. Large enough to provide an intellectually stimulating environment, but small enough to nurture the development of a common purpose, it is able to minimise costs while maximising the quality and impact of research.

While the average university in Britain requires 40 per cent overheads, Oxford requires less than 20 per cent. Oncogene, launched as the institute's house journal nine

years ago, is now acknowledged as one of the world's leading cancer research journals, a forum for reports of the latest research, underlining the centre's international status.

The quality and availability of Marie Curie education programmes continue to develop. Throughout the year conferences and short courses are available for healthcare professionals, on topics such as skin cancer prevention, drug administration, ethics, symptom control, breast and cervical screening and psychological and spiritual care.

The value of courses offered was confirmed this year by Thames Valley University's accreditation of all courses and conferences, conferring international acceptability for their use as credits towards a university degree. The first diplomas for students successfully completing Marie Curie courses in Cancer Care Nursing and Ethics of Cancer and Palliative Care were awarded in June 1995. This year, increased emphasis has been placed on the effective audit of all educational initiatives.

The largest challenge facing the charity remains funding. Since its establishment in 1948, Marie Curie's expenditure has grown from £9 million to £55 million. Its commitment to increase the volume and standard of care is not being matched by the increase in donations and it is vital to generate additional funds.

Fundraisers work throughout Britain raising interest at local level, and the range of fundraising activities includes direct mail, street collections, shops and fundraising events. Legacies remain the largest source of voluntary income and there are well over 100,000 individual donors on the database. A cure for cancer is no longer the remote possibility it once seemed. It will take time, dedication and money. Marie Curie Cancer Care can supply the first two in abundance, the latter depends on the goodwill of mankind.

## A nurse who works eight days a week

The Marie Curie Cancer Care staff are there to help the carers as well as the patients

Carolyn was 47 when the headaches began in April this year. As a precaution, she stopped taking HRT and to her relief the headaches stopped. Ros Drinkwater writes.

When they returned, Carolyn's husband, Michael, experienced his first serious fears of the unknown. In June the problem was diagnosed as a malignant melanoma. In July a course of radiotherapy proved ineffective. Carolyn returned home and died on September 10, leaving a grief-stricken Michael and their two teenage children, Dominic and Louise.

The Shaw family tragedy is one of thousands that occur every year, and it is to ease the suffering of those families that Marie Curie Cancer Care offers practical nursing care, allowing patients to remain in their own homes.

Unlike Macmillan nurses, whose role is advisory, the Marie Curie nurse provides hands-on nursing care both during the day and overnight, 365 days a year. The service is jointly funded and managed as a partnership between Marie Curie Cancer Care and the National Health Service, which has always recognised the need for this work.

This year expert and dedicated care was given to more than 25,000 people seriously ill with cancer in their homes. Attendance can sometimes begin with a one night a week visit, increasing gradually as the patient's condition deteriorates. All Marie Curie nurses have a special interest in cancer or terminal care and are recruited after a rigorous selection process.

From the moment it was clear that Carolyn's condition was terminal, Maureen

Bracken joined the Shaw household, as part of Carolyn's primary health care team. By working flexible hours the Marie Curie nurse can respond to the individual needs of patients, and their families.

Each nurse spends a shift, usually a whole night or day giving skilled nursing care and observing the patient's condition. This stretch of time gives both patient and family the chance to discuss

**'You do become emotionally involved. If you are not, you can't give what is needed'**

worries and fears with someone who has time to listen.

"It's often the case, particularly in those hours before dawn, that the patient will voice fears they cannot bring themselves to discuss with the family," says Maureen, who returned to nursing when her children were grown up and who has been a Marie Curie nurse for more than four years. "But we are there to help the carers as well as the patient. After a long day, Michael would unwind, discussing all kinds of topics."

"Each family is different, you must adapt to the home and its facilities, you have to try to anticipate the mood of the household and always appear calm and reassuring. Sometimes there is a great deal of anger. I was recently with a mother of 60 who lost her only son when he was 38. She reacted in rage and total

disbelief. You do become emotionally involved. If you are not, you can't give what is needed."

Maureen will suggest counselling when she believes it is necessary. "Most people could do with it, particularly children. Grieving is a natural process and research shows that children who don't have counselling can have problems later on."

In Michael Shaw's case the stress was compounded by the fact that he and Carolyn were partners in their small, home-based business. A chartered engineer, he was made redundant in 1992.

"Carolyn had done an Open University degree when the children were small. She started a new career in database design. We set up our own business, and she had built up considerable experience when the headaches began," he said. By the end of July the drugs were having serious side-effects. Michael realised the need for constant care. At this point the Macmillan nurse felt it was time to call in Marie Curie Cancer Care.

In the latter stages of Carolyn's illness, Michael never discussed with his wife the fact that she wouldn't survive. "By July she was only responding, you couldn't have a discussion. The worst moment came when she told me she was losing the determination to live. I told Maureen, 'this has been one of the saddest days of my life.'"

Michael feels the importance of the work done by Marie Curie cannot be underestimated. "Both in practical and psychological terms, it is very difficult to imagine how we would have coped without the Marie Curie support."

## WORKING ALONGSIDE MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

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Radical vision: "Patients were dying of uncontrolled symptoms and uncontrolled distress," says Professor Finlay

## Dr Finlay's casebook

Today's hospice is all about living, says Ilora Finlay, a pioneer in the treatment of cancer cases

The Marie Curie Centre, Holme Tower, in South Wales, cares for up to 30 patients on a magnificent site overlooking the sea. Professor Ilora Finlay, the medical director, is the world's first female Professor of Palliative Medicine, a professorship awarded by the University of Wales, College of Medicine, in recognition of her accomplishments.

Aged 47 and of Polish extraction, she describes herself as "emotionally Welsh". She has a special attachment to Marie Curie as her grandmother won the Polish Student of the Year award in 1911, 28 years after Marie Curie won the same prize.

During the past 25 years Professor Finlay has been at the forefront of radical change in the attitude to, and treatment of, cancer patients. She became involved in 1974 when she began working in paediatrics as a junior doctor. "I was looking after kids dying of leukaemia and I was appalled because nobody knew what to do with them. Symptom control simply wasn't part of the process of care."

Having worked previously in anaesthetics, she was aware of the benefits of drugs such as morphine, but in those days the standard prescription for pain was pethidine, a drug whose effect lasted no more than two hours. "Today patients get morphine, in reasonable doses, to stop the pain.

But 20 years ago people were terrified of using even the smallest dose of morphine in case they created an addiction. It was acceptable that pain and vomiting were the inevitable consequences of the disease."

Professor Finlay thought otherwise and set about implementing a programme of symptom control, taking care to keep up with scientific research.

When she arrived at Holme Tower a decade ago, she set about applying the same principles. "Today's hospice is all about living. When I first arrived here it was unheard of for patients to be sent home. They stayed here until they died. There were no on-site treatments. If a patient needed a transfusion he was sent to hospital."

With the new policy in force, the unthinkable started to happen. "Patients were referred to us, presumed to be dying of their malignancy, but when we got their symptoms under control they went home, went back to work. They weren't dying of cancer, they were dying of uncontrolled symptoms and uncontrolled distress," she says. Professor Finlay sees this

success as a demonstration of Marie Curie Cancer Care's greatest strength. "We are needs-responsive, driven by patient need rather than fundraising potential, not by what is going to get us the most glory today. The most crucial thing that we do here is stopping people dying from uncontrolled distress, getting them back on their feet, having quality of life."

"There's a chap I buy my cars from who was referred five years ago, having been told by two consultants and a GP that his life expectancy was between six and 12 weeks. He wanted euthanasia. The GP referred him, saying that he was not sure what I could do to relieve his distress. The patient had an open wound on his back, which was assumed to be a tumour, except that we got that healed and he went back to work."

"He is still working and he comes in to see me for a joke and a laugh. He is a very clear example of the phenomenal dangers for patients labelled as hopeless cases."

In the case of a patient with cancer, Professor Finlay sees the biggest challenge as fear, "often unrealistic fear. Patients are frightened of things

that aren't going to happen to them, fear of being confused, that they won't be in control, that they will have great pain. As a society we tend to blow off signals of distress, we are frightened of talking about anything that will result in an emotional response and so people don't voice their worries, and that is really sad, because it makes them terribly vulnerable."

Professor Finlay is unequivocal on the subject of euthanasia. "I feel very strongly that pro-euthanasia pressures come from the philosophy of despair and from ignorance. Although when we first see them, patients will talk quite often of death and wanting to have control, I've never, in looking after 10,000 patients, had a persisting request for euthanasia. The law as it stands protects us from the worst side of ourselves."

The greatest frustration remains lack of funds. "We just don't have enough money to do all we could do. If more money came in we could do it there, more accessible on a wider geographical base. There isn't a magic wand, there's no golden ticket in immortality, but there is relief of distress, symptom relief and psychological support. Cancer need not mean pain and loss of dignity."

ROS DRINKWATER

# Secrets of the cells

**Ros Drinkwater describes how the centre combines scientific rigour and global networking**

Intense focus and international collaboration are the watchwords of the Marie Curie Research Institute. Housed in a former convalescent home in a beautiful rural setting near Oxford in Surrey, the Institute is ideally suited to its dual function as research establishment and international meeting centre, the hub of a network of collaborating research organisations.



The key to progress: research into molecular motors

A policy of recruiting overseas scientists on short-term contracts allows it to keep abreast of global developments, and being small it is highly cost effective. In the words of the director, Dr Graham Currie: "We deliver, as the Americans say, more bang per buck. We have small overheads, no dead wood and everyone is highly productive."

Work at the Institute is fundamental — molecular biology, asking basic questions about cancer. There are six areas of research under way:

control mechanisms, a valuable model for understanding how these mechanisms can go wrong.

□ Molecular motors — cells use these specialised molecules to power movement, including cell division, and they will be the targets for new treatments.

□ DNA replication — before cells can divide, their genetic code has to be accurately copied. Understanding how this goes wrong in cancer cells should allow the development of effective drugs.

□ Malignant melanoma — this most dangerous form of skin cancer occurs in the pigment cells, which are normally responsible for tanning the skin. Marie Curie scientists are studying what goes wrong in these cells when cancer develops.

□ Bladder cancer — there are 10,000 new cases a year in the UK. By identifying the damage to genes which lead to bladder cancer, new tests for early detection and follow up are being developed.

"We do science, not technology," Dr Currie says. "That's an important distinction. We are not trying to build a better mouse trap, we are trying to understand the mouse, to understand the fundamental nature of cancer cells — why does a normal cell go haywire?"

"There is enormous progress in that field at the moment, not only here, but throughout the world because we now, basically, know the answers. We now know that cancer is a disease of genes and it's a matter of identifying those genes and looking at the specific kinds of damage in-

involved in particular kinds of cancer. And that has come out of fundamental, laboratory-based research, looking at fundamental mechanisms."

As late as the 1960s and 1970s, the consensus of scientific opinion believed the inner workings of the cell would remain beyond our comprehension. "Over the past 30 years there have been enthusiasms for particular kinds of research," says Dr Currie, "but none of those were based on any understanding of what cancer is, or how it develops."

"The development of molecular biology in the 1980s gave us the actual techniques that allow us to clone genes and to sequence them, something that is having an impact on all forms of medicine, and a dramatic effect on cancer."

"We are now in a position to understand precisely what is

**'There's enormous progress in research because we now, basically, know the answers'**

going on in the heart of the cell, in the nucleus, to understand how cell division works. Before — and this was what they call a paradigm shift — biology was full of black boxes, areas we did not understand and thought we would never understand."

Benefits of research during the past decade include the number of new drugs in the pipeline and a steady decrease in the number of deaths from cancer in people under 40 as a direct result of improved treatments.

"In terms of the functioning of the cell, when it divides, why it divides, what are the mechanisms, which are the individual molecules, we will eventually dissect the whole damn lot. It's just a matter of time and money. The new techniques are also incredibly rapid, you can now identify and amplify a bit of genetic sequence 50 million times in two hours. This is powerful weaponry."

A time for privacy, dignity, comfort and support for the whole family



A close-knit family: Tamar Cowan and her daughters, Danielle, left, and Maia. Her husband, John, took the photograph

Tamar Cowan died last month, leaving a husband and two daughters, Danielle, 12 and Maia, eight. She was 42.

She is buried in Israel, the land of her birth, but the last month of her life was spent in the care of the Edenhall Marie Curie Centre, in north London. Her death came less than a year after lung cancer was diagnosed. Subsequently, it spread to her brain. "It took 11 months from start to finish," says John Cowan, 44, an antiques dealer.

He and his wife had been together for 19 years, the epitome of a happy couple, an average and close-knit family living in a neat London terrace house. "When she was first diagnosed, I started making inquiries in America, in Germany, where was the best treatment, what was best? She flew to Israel to see a specialist."

All the while, she was receiving treatment at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. "In March, we had to accept the inevitable," Mr Cowan says. "You stop looking for miracle cures — at least, I did — and you want the best care. In this situation, the last thing you want to have any doubts about is the medical care." Although insured, he found there was nothing that private medicine could offer that they were not already receiving.

The couple were invited to visit the Marie Curie Centre

## 'We wanted the best care'

and were told that it was equipped to deal with Mrs Cowan's symptoms. "They have all sorts of stock phrases which you come to understand: 'We would advise you to go and see', perhaps you'd like to consult.' So you think, 'well, you're in the system now'. That was the attitude I went with," he says.

He and his wife visited the centre together. "I went with her everywhere. I've lived all these tests, all the X-rays, all the scans," he says. He helped her through chemotherapy, "watching my wife lose all her hair, picking it up off the pillow so she doesn't see it, thinking, 'this shouldn't happen to us'."

The doctors kept him informed of developments. In March, they said Mrs Cowan would probably survive until August. "I needed to know that medically everything was taken care of. I had so many other things on my mind, so many other feelings — the kids and

how are they going to cope, how am I going to cope? How are things going to work out? If, on top of that, your wife is distressed, it would be too much. The wonderful thing about the Marie Curie is that they take care of that side of it. You don't have to worry about that at all. We had taken all the knocks we could, but the centre gives you a feeling of absolute confidence in what they do. They are extremely compassionate. The nursing is of the finest quality. No matter who you are, how much money you have, how little, they do not discriminate. Money couldn't buy better care."

In May, Mrs Cowan stayed for a week at the centre. For the month of August, the family went to Israel: one of the palliative care team telephoned twice to check how things were. When they returned home, a room in the Marie Curie Centre had been booked for her.

"People need to understand

how essential it is that the person you are losing can have a separate room, can have privacy, dignity, comfort, support. It is nobody's fault, but that does not exist in a hospital."

Even though the children knew their mother was dying, Maia now says: "Mummy was very comfortable there and she got the attention she needed." But there is also humour. The two girls giggle at the memory of the infectious laughter of the nurse who was so short she could hardly refill the towel dispenser. "And the hot chocolate was quite nice, too," Maia says.

Relatives can sleep overnight when rooms are available. Mr Cowan's mother-in-law stayed three nights. "One night she said she would only sleep if one of the nurses would sit with my wife all the time, which she did," he says. "They are unbelievably dedicated. It restores your faith in everything. It is a nice atmosphere because the people are really friendly," Danielle says.

The palliative care sister from the Royal Free still contacts the family. Two weeks ago the doctor wrote to them. "At that level, the health service is not run on money, it's run on pure dedication. That is something we ought to be very ashamed of. These people do what they do despite the money," Mr Cowan says.

PAT BLAIR

**The centre restores your faith in things'**

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philosophy.

All of this takes a lot of money. This year, we will spend £55 million. (If we receive more we will give more care).

For the vast majority of our revenue, we rely on donations from individuals and organisations.

## One in three people get cancer. Fact.

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fledgling National Health Service.

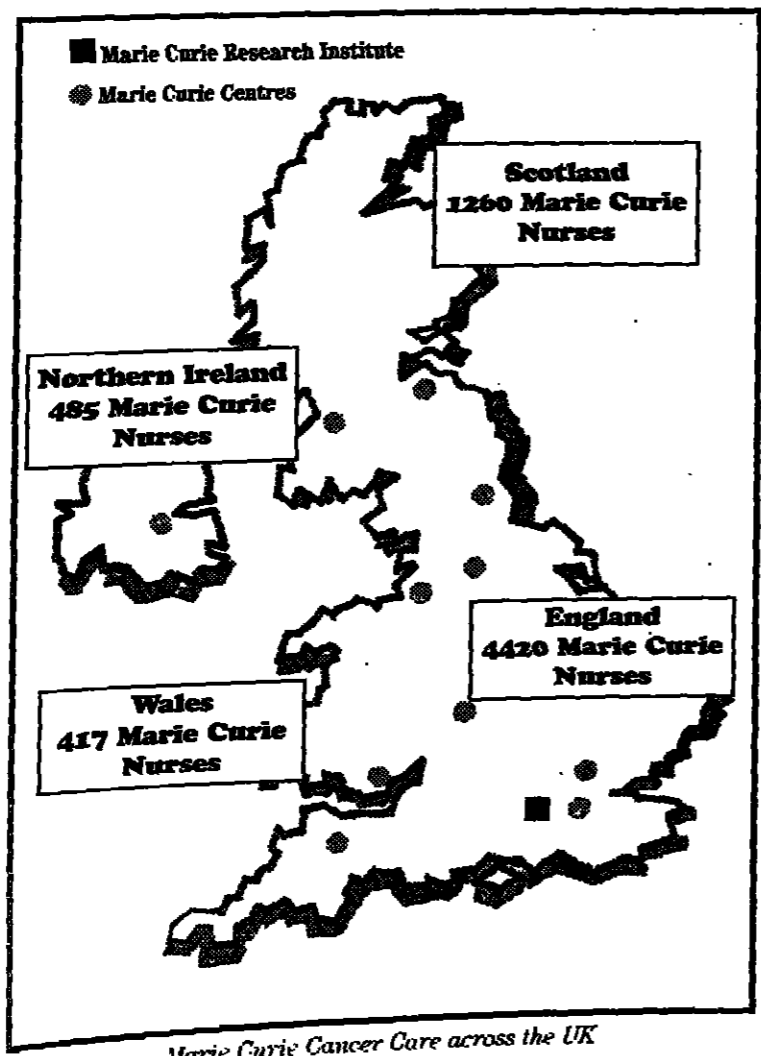
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For all Scholarships, the maximum award on the grounds of talent is one half of the fees. However, it is possible for this to be increased by a bursary, on grounds of need, in some cases.

For details contact The Registrar 01935 812245  
URL: <http://www.comps.nhs.uk/~smg/>  
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Full details and 'Open House' invitations for Saturday 9th November are available from the Admissions Officer, Roedean School, Roedean Way, Brighton, Sussex BN2 5RQ.  
Tel: (01273) 603181 Fax: (01273) 680791.

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The closing date for applications is 22 December 1996. Further particulars are available from the Secretary for the Research Fellowships Competition, St Catharine's College, Cambridge CB2 1RL.

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كنا من الأصل

# EDUCATION

Computers may have revolutionised education, from pre-school through to the university campus, but has it been for the best?



Children may learn keyboard skills if they are helped to operate a computer, but this is no substitute for conventional learning

## Infant programmers

Many parents are competitively interested in the dates of their infants' landmarks of development. How early did yours crawl/walk/speak/use the potty? they murmur anxiously to each other. Now the parents of under-twos have a whole new area of potential rivalry. Has yours learnt to use a keyboard yet? How are his or her mouse skills?

**Nicolette Jones on the educational benefits of software for toddlers**

The very name *Jump Ahead* suggests academic advantage. The nappy-clad would-be Netsurfer is at the sharp end of a trend. CD-Roms are becoming *de rigueur* in every nursery class. Programs proliferate for three-year-olds upwards. Next month a new US-originated story-telling series under the brand name of the *Funday Times* will be launched, also starting at age three.

out how successful a child has been on the screen in their absence. This does give the impression that if you plunk a child in front of a screen the computer will take care of some aspect of its education.

It is, however, no substitute for conventional learning. Jane Mitra of the Parents' Information Network, a support group for parents who want to know about computers for children, which collaborated on *Jump Ahead*, says that it does not offer a head start. "Children would learn what it teaches anyway. It is just another way to stimulate them."

## The computer virus that is killing academic life

A cancer is growing inside our universities; it is destroying research and eating away at the fabric of academic life. Yet it has gone unnoticed.

**E-mail has replaced debate at universities, writes Dan Cohn-Sherbok**

word processor. I bought the cheapest I could find: it is light, portable, and has about 40 hours of battery life. I also obtained a simple printer and a modem so that I could receive and send e-mail from my office. Such a choice was viewed as highly eccentric. Why, my colleagues wondered, didn't I want to have a more sophisticated com-

puter, one that would also enable me to surf the Internet? The answer was simple: I had seen that the preoccupation with technology was becoming a scourge. Instead of concentrating on their research, a significant number of academics spent most of their free time studying computer manuals and practising new techniques. One of my friends spent months putting the esoteric vocabulary of his discipline into his spell-checker! Even worse, innumerable hours were being frittered away on the Internet. Instead of writing books, academics were sending long e-mail messages to friends in foreign countries, becoming mem-

bers of discussion groups about arcane topics, downloading irrelevant material, and pursuing the catalogues of libraries around the world to discover whether they stocked their works.

The disease has also spread to the student population. Over the past few years, millions of pounds have been spent on computer equipment, and it is the goal of many universities to have a personal terminal in every student room. Clearly even more will have to be spent. But what do students do on these machines? The most popular pursuit is sending e-mail. I am the first to admit that computers have their uses. They produce admirable library catalogues (if only libraries were not everlastingly changing the system). They have greatly facilitated the allocation of seats in theatres and on aeroplanes. Nearer home, even I find it helpful to be able to correct one's work on the screen and to produce a tidy manuscript. Students' essays that are produced on a wordprocessor are far easier to read than the old, handwritten models. Communication within the university has been speeded up. If not improved, by the introduction of e-mail. But the situation is totally out of hand.



### John O'Leary on a teacher-exchange scheme celebrating its tenth birthday

When a slightly eccentric insurance executive put forward plans for an Anglo-Japanese teacher exchange programme in the 1970s he was greeted with predictable scepticism. The costs appeared prohibitive and the benefits doubtful.

## Jet flies high in Japan

to bring English-speakers into schools, even though most are not trained teachers and are not allowed to take classes without a Japanese teacher. The rigid nature of teaching in Japanese schools and the poor oral skills of many teachers make for slow progress in an area of the curriculum that is still not a high priority for most pupils or parents. But the presence of young, outgoing Westerners can be an education in itself, especially for rural communities with little experience of foreigners.

High school. He says the money is so generous that it breeds resentment among Japanese staff who are paid less and work longer hours. But Mr Elite says the main barrier to successful team teaching is the conservative outlook of staff. Textbooks have always been followed slavishly and although some young teachers are willing to break away, most are afraid of losing control.

## A lesson in breaking the rules

The reaction of parents, pupils and staff to the news that the head of Cheltenham College had been forced to resign has, once again, raised questions about the decisions made by some governing bodies of independent schools. There has been an outcry over the governors' decision to ask Peter Wilkes to leave after a slight drop in A-level performance this summer.

**It is time parents assumed more control in schools, says Anne Lee**

the parents are empowered by the constitution — and enthusiasm and interest flows. There was real voting. There were more people willing to become governors than there were vacancies. Candidates were asked what they would bring to the school if they were appointed, and the offerings ranged from building skills to a medical consultant.

prohibits a paid member of staff from joining. To ensure that staff are represented, they should either be appointed as non-voting members or the role of trustee should be separated from that of governor. Schools should not be threatened by including parents and senior staff on their governing boards. Better decisions would result.

**INDEPENDENT EDUCATION**  
**The Sixth Form Debate**  
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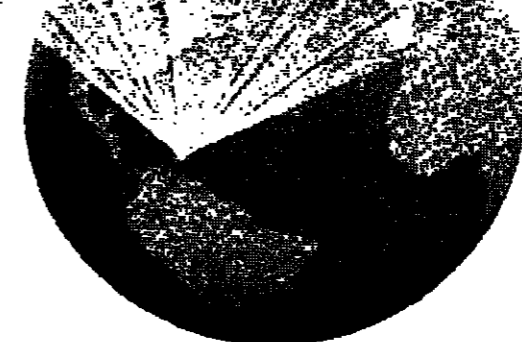
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**THEATRE 1**  
Irresistible songs by Leiber and Stoller are sung and danced by angels in *Smokey Joe's Cafe*



**THEATRE 2**  
*Hamlet* with a difference as Philip Franks's Greenwich production springs a few surprises

# THE TIMES ARTS



**THEATRE 3**  
Niamh Cusack's quiet performance makes her one of the great Rosalinds in the RSC's *As You Like It*



**TOMORROW**  
*A Doll's House* arrives in the West End, starring Janet McTeer: read Jeremy Kingston's verdict

**THEATRE: Sublime song and dance from Broadway, and a double helping of innovative Shakespeare**



Note-perfect foursome: Victor Trent Cook, Alton Fitzgerald White, Devin Richards and Harrison White

## Give our regards to Broadway's finest

**A**t last, a musical anthology which has the courage to be nothing but a collection of songs with no book, no governing idea, no concept and no stars. It aims low and, glory be, it works. In fact it works brilliantly, for the simple reason that the Fifties and Sixties standards of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller are some of the greatest compositions in pop history.

**Smokey Joe's Cafe**  
Prince of Wales

*Smokey Joe's Cafe* sifts through two decades of L & S classics with the assurance of a glossy brochure selling priceless real estate. Against giant painted sheets of record labels and Fifties icons, a mixed cast of supremely assured actors sing like angels through an awesome running list of torch songs and dance routines.

shop quartet get all misty-eyed on a station platform.

Sex is rarely a song away. A stockings leg slides around a curtain to introduce us to the sassy delights of Stephanie Pope and the improbably-named Delee Lively in *Trouble*. Summoning the kind of confidence only the beautiful and blonde can do, Pope and Lively barely need to growl, let alone sing in tune, to disarm their prey.

## Unnatural acts well acted

**T**here is nothing natural about nature in Steven Pimlott's production, designed by Ashley Martin-Davies. Trees descend from above like metal telegraph poles threatening to crush the characters, who wander around on the bare polished-steel floor of the Forest of

Arden and are periodically dusted with fake snow. In such a world, it is hardly surprising that brother turns on brother in both the Duke and Orlando's households. And it makes sense that, once banished by her own uncle, Rosalind should trick nature by dressing as a man.

Pimlott's production is robustly populist. It features intrusive music by Jason Carr and even full-blown sung numbers, as if Pimlott has not quite got over the excitement of directing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. But the actors are wonderful. Liam Cunningham makes a

vigorous Orlando, so fired up by the injustice of his brother Oliver that he overpowers the champion wrestler Charles with relative ease. Yet when he discovers that Oliver plans to murder him, his masculine composure is shattered and his tears the more affecting.

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As You Like It  
Barbican Theatre

close by in the forest. As played by Robert Demeger, marvellously noble in his drooping moustaches, he seems an eminently cheerful, self-reliant fellow. He welcomes the distraught and hungry Orlando and faithful Adam (John Quayle) with serene generosity.

The baddies are altogether less credible, which makes the story simpler though perhaps poorer. As Oliver, Sebastian Harcombe seems to come from totally different stock from Orlando. Wheedlingly scrawny and vicious, he struts in silver and gold pantaloons, and is reunited with his brother only when he is back in plain garb. Colum Conway as Duke Frederick is directed to be a spitting screaming pantomime villain who affectedly clutches his head as if the humours within are so unpleasant they actually hurt.

In the forest, in spite of the industrial metal and the snow which never melts, the conventions of comedy remain sacred. Joseph Fiennes and Victoria Hamilton make an excellent horse-and-carriage pairing as the non-lovers, Silvius and Phebe. Like a strapping little cart horse, she stamps and snorts away, while he, lanky, sensitive yet utterly inept, clatters behind.

CLARE BAYLEY

## Higher princely sum

**T**he route into a production of *Hamlet*, so some say, is by way of the Ghost. Is he stony, martial, loving, agitated by infernal winds, the furious monarch, or a kindly papa? Determine this and the director's thoughts on the play emerge. Like-wise those of the actor playing Hamlet.



Dressed to kill: Zoe Waites is an anxious Ophelia, Michael Maloney (Hamlet) a distressed son

**Hamlet**  
Greenwich

Here the actor is Michael Maloney, his director Philip Franks and the Ghost (David Allister), in toga and laurel circlet, has the appearance of a vainglorious statue until he turns his head to look back at Horatio. Now we see a countenance truly more sorrowful than angered, and the scene with his son develops into frenzied demonstrations of love from Hamlet that the Ghost appreciates, even enjoys. This production looks set to emphasise excessive filial devotion.

So it proves. Franks, Maloney and his co-actors create an evening of great fascination, and there are a couple of unusual, perhaps unprecedented ideas that powerfully enrich the play. Julian McGowan's design also updates the costumes to a recent past, with crisply tailored suits and dresses for the ladies, and places a steel gantry above the stage to serve as Elsinore's battlements.

Maloney's generally unsmiling features, reminiscent of a young Sherlock Holmes, suggest a man damaged before his mother's remarriage, before his father's death. The confidence with which Maloney delivers Hamlet's strictures on human behaviour allow the interpretation that he is chafing for power, yearning to involve himself in high deeds and derring-do, whether conquering bits of Poland or sacking Troy. But throughout this production it is any phrase that twists him towards the thought of incest that really curdles his voice.

He speaks the soliloquies with a

sense of self-discovery, revealing himself unto himself as unto us. The words sound newly-minted in his brain except (nice touch) when he rattles off "O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I!" as though the line were an overworn proverb. In the scene with Zoe Waites's Ophelia he takes her in his arms, stroking her hair, and gently suggests a nursery — this whole passage fuelled by sudden knowledge that his own words can be liars.

Waites is an anxious Ophelia, repressed by court and parental convention, yet in the clarity of her following speech, where her concern is solely for Hamlet's welfare, she movingly conveys the truth of the girl's love. After this, surrounded by players bringing on monstrous heads for the dumbshow, the seeds of madness are in place.

A brilliant innovation by Franks makes the Player King's speech animated by the other players, one of whom holds Hamlet like a marionette. In the role of Pyrrhus frozen in the act of killing Priam, thus foreshadow-

ing Hamlet's own irresolution. George Irving gives us a permanently troubled Claudius, self-promoted beyond his capability. Dinah Stabb's Gertrude is a background figure. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (Bob Barrett, Richard Freeman), a comically unalike couple, are deliciously furtive, and Vincent Penfold's Osrick will clearly become the next king's Potholus, and avoid the mistake of fathering a daughter.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Elvis Costello helps Fretwork to celebrate a decade of music-making

VENUE: Sunday at the Wigmore Hall

THE TIL POP ARTS



POP 1

The McGarrigle sisters are writing the kind of emotive songs they could not have written 25 years ago



POP 2

The story of the Rutles seemed to be over, until Rory Bremner stepped in to revive the joke

LONDON

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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

the group for part of the programme which includes one of Costello's own compositions... ELSEWHERE BIRMINGHAM: The Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under conductor Ulf Schirmer...

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Nigel Williamson meets two middle-aged Canadian sisters on their British tour

A nice line in experience

There are two ways of dealing with middle age in the music industry. The traditional method much favoured by Mick Jagger and other male rockers is to kick and fight and refuse to recognise the grey hairs which rest of the world sees. The other, much rarer, is to accept the march of time and fashion the experience it provides into fresh creativity.



Kate and Anna McGarrigle: "We're more like Brontës than Gallaghers"

friends of Anna's teenage children. It is hardly the standard subject-matter of rock 'n' roll, although Talk About It concerns a one-night stand after a party. "Wrong? It never was. Why? Just because." Yes, kids, 50-year-olds have sex too. In the scope and the breadth of its emotion, probably no one else could have made an album quite like it.

happy accidents. "We didn't even know it was an industry. We thought it was about art," Kate says. "We were arrogant. We didn't take any notice of all that corporate stuff; we didn't know the rules. Now we play the game." Well, up to a point. Seven albums in two decades and six years since the last one is not exactly a work rate designed to appeal to label executives, constantly demanding "product". Anna shrugs and Kate laughs. "It doesn't seem that hard. We've been very lucky with our record companies," says Kate.

The spoof Beatles are back in business

Remember the scene in Who Framed Roger Rabbit? where Bob Hoskins boards Howie's cartoon cab, and drives from the rainy backstreets of (real) Hollywood into (surreal) Toontown sign, the world suddenly becomes juicy and Dayglo, with the sun and the trees shining barber-shop quiet.

at the music industry ever filmed, out-legging Spinal Tap and Bad News by several leagues. And on Innes's side an album which, while fairly swooning with Beatlesque harmonies and arrangements, was lyrically sharp, wonderfully observed, and packed with more joyful melodies than you could shake a mop-top at.



CAITLIN MORAN

However, Innes didn't get what he deserved. First, everyone regarded the Rutles as a joke band and The Rutles as a joke album. Secondly, even though Innes paid a musicologist \$5,000 to prove his songs were significantly different from his idols, the

Beatles' publisher sued and Innes's publisher settled out of court. "It cost me at least £20,000 in royalties," Innes says. "John [Lennon] had advised me to leave Get Up And Go off the album and I did. I thought after that we'd be OK. But they still had me." Innes retired from the music industry, and started writing and narrating a puppet-show for children's television. The story of the Rutles seemed to be over - until Rory Bremner stepped in. He rang me and said: "Two things have happened this week - Princess Diana on Panorama, and the Beatles releasing Free As A Bird. I'll handle Diana - you do the Beatles."

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POP 3 In tune: Madonna scores an unlikely musical triumph as Eva Perón, on the soundtrack to *Evita*...



POP 4 ... while on their second album, Boyzone venture into Barry Manilow and Julio Iglesias territory...

THE ARTS



POP 5 ... and *Anthology 3* promises to be the last in the series to comb the archive of Beatles curiosities



POP 6 Thomas Lang is proving that white soul is alive and well and living in Liverpool

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair can take Madonna as Evita but wishes the Beatles had simply let it be

Madonna finds her match

MADONNA & VARIOUS ARTISTS Music From The Motion Picture *Evita* [Maverick/Warner Bros 9362-46432]

THE STORY of how a humble peasant girl rose to power and became idolised by the masses, only to fall victim in the end to her own hubris is already familiar. But enough of Madonna's acting career. In *Evita*, the singer has at last found a character to match the grand scale of even her ambition, and say what you will of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, their music places far more extravagant demands on her voice than anything she has previously tackled. By and large, she copes remarkably well with melodies that dip and wobble like corks in a heavy sea and stylised lyrics which skilfully compress whole chunks of narrative into short, operatic bursts of song. Certainly, she more than holds her own in various duets with Antonio Banderas (as Che Guevara) and Jonathan Pryce (as Juan Perón). But the key to this unlikely triumph is how emotionally in tune she is with the part of Eva Perón, even stamping her mark on *Don't Cry For Me Argentina* with such authority that previous versions are momentarily eclipsed.

look, there is nothing on Boyzone's second album, with the possible exception of the MNS-influenced *Strong Enough*, that would not sit comfortably on a Julio Iglesias or Barry Manilow collection. Accurately flagged by the old Bee Gees chestnut, *Words, A Different Beat* seems to unfold in slow motion, as a succession of sludgy ballads, such as *Don't Stop Looking For Love* and *Paradise*, come winging in with the monotonous regularity of planes on the flight path to Heathrow. The boys' own compositions, which comprise most of the songs, show signs of a nascent songwriting craft but are let down by their "moon in June" lyrics, although, to be fair, none of the originals is quite as simple-minded as the cabaret standard, *Melting Pot*.

AUDIOWEB *Audioweb* (Mother MUM 9604) YOU DO not have to come from Manchester to make this kind of record, but evidently it helps. Picking up where Stereo MCs and Happy Mondays left off, Audioweb's superb debut deftly combines guitar riffs from the fashionable end of rock, with a panoply of dance-music tricks and techniques: dub beats, tape loops, turntable scratching, rap and regga chants, you name it.

BOYZONE *A Different Beat* (Polydor 537422) IT IS odd the way these boy bands close the circle between screaming teenagers and the blue-rinse brigade. For despite their fresh-faced



Dictating style: Madonna as Evita Perón has finally found a part to match her towering aspirations and to make more demands on her musical talents than ever before

vocalist Martin Merchant, who starts off singing in an airy, melodic alto and ends in a gruff, rumbling rap. Watch this one fly. THE BEATLES *Anthology 3* (Apple/EMI 8 34451, 2 CDs) AS THEY reach the bottom of a very deep barrel, the Beatles' record company and producer George Martin will doubtless take comfort from the knowledge that in

less than a year *Anthologies 1* and *2* have sold a combined total of 13 million double albums. Once again, *Anthology 3* — the last in the series — combs the archives, unearthing yet another batch of rejected takes, home demos and other manifestly sub-standard curiosities, this time from the group's twilight years of 1968-70. None of these recordings has been commercially released before, and some items, such as George

Harrison's *Not Guilty*, are briefly intriguing. But while the project has obviously been vindicated by the overwhelming public demand, hardly any of it is designed to withstand even the mildest critical scrutiny. Having set the standard by which all popular music has subsequently been judged, the Beatles have now established a benchmark for crude nostalgic indulgence on a previously unimagined scale.

TOP TEN ALBUMS table with 10 entries including Greatest Hits, Falling into You, Only Human, Blue is the Colour, Recurring Dream, The Score, Ocean Drive, Jagged Little Pill, Older, and Dance into the Light.

Blue-eyed soul contender

The best singers are not always those who figure in the charts, particularly in the soul arena. But the welcome news is that the undervalued art of white soul singing is still alive and well — not in New York or Los Angeles but in northwest England. The evidence is on the overdue new album by Liverpool's Thomas Lang.

Alan Jackson meets Thomas Lang, Liverpool's keeper of the soul flame

Me. What Lang, 34, brings to such material, though, is his rare ability to convey passion through restraint. The seventh of eight children from a typically matriarchal, Catholic, working-class family, Lang grew up absorbing the varying musical tastes of his parents and his older brothers and sisters. "I couldn't afford to buy records myself, so it was a question of listening to whatever was in the house. My Mum and Dad loved Nat King Cole and particularly Matt Monroe. And the others were into Gladys Knight, the Four Tops,

the Isley Brothers, all the classic soul stuff. From the earliest age, I would sing along, and I suppose my own style developed as a hybrid of those two different forms."

Lang recalls vividly the first album he owned himself. "It was the late 1970s and I was really proud of having this hooded top that was fashionable at the time. But I swapped it for a mate's copy of the first Earth, Wind and Fire album. I played that record to death. It wasn't so much the lyrics that spoke to me but the rhythms and counter-rhythms, the incredible melodies, and the way

Sung's *The Dream Of The Blue Turtles*. Elegant, melancholic, enduringly haunting, it has survived the passage of time far better than many more commercially successful projects of that era. The image with which Epic hoped to sell this and a subsequent album, 1990's *Little Moons*, travelled less well, however. The laconic and resolutely feet-on-the-ground Lang was presented as some overgroomed neo-romancer. The public was not so sure though, and the partnership came to an end.

Lang is sanguine about this early experience. "What happened, happened, and ultimately I'm responsible for it all. At the time, I had no real objection to being put into good suits and presented as a



Lang: not Lederhosen, nor Lampshade

kind of Gitanes-smoking, coffee-sipping lounge lizard. The fear lingered, however, that someone would come along and say, "F\*ck you! That's not what you are at all. You're just a Guinness man from Park Road, Toxteth."

Two subsequent independently-released albums, and a *Live In Tokyo* set for Sony Japan, have kept Lang's name on the cognoscent's lips in the interim, while work with the Smith Quartet and on soundtracks to the films *Leon The Pig Farmer* and *Softaire For Two* have shown a willingness to take his talent in new directions. The best tracks on *Versions*, meanwhile, display a confidence that is fully evident on his new and, as yet, unrecorded songs — wonderfully melodic ballads, but also dance-orientated material, composed with a new writing partner, John Uriel. "For me, it's not about wanting to be world-famous and a multimillionaire," he says. "I just aim to keep singing for the rest of my life."

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*Scalegog Jazz*, released in 1987, was produced by Pete Smith, fresh from his work on

HMV World Music Selection

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## 42 SPORT / LAW

BASEBALL: YANKES COME FROM 6-0 DOWN TO LEVEL WORLD SERIES

## Braves blunder away advantage

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE  
IN ATLANTA

YOGI BERRA, a great catcher and a great manager for the New York Yankees in their golden age, was even more famous for his pronouncements on the game. "It ain't over 'til it's over," he once said, and the phrase has passed into the language.

The Yankees heeded the wisdom of their sage on Wednesday night and produced one of the great recoveries in World Series history to beat the Atlanta Braves 6-6 in ten innings here, so leveling the best-of-seven series at 2-2. With one more game to be played in Atlanta last night, the series will resume in New York tomorrow.

After the Braves won the first two games in New York, their superiority was such that the remaining fixtures seemed a formality, to be played out for the benefit of the fans in Atlanta. Even when they lost on Tuesday, it seemed no more than an aberration.

After five innings on Wednesday, it appeared normal service had been resumed. The Braves led 6-0 behind the excellent pitching of Denny Neagle. Fred McGriff had homered, Blauser had driven in one run — and Grissom two more — all in the second inning, chasing the Yankees' starting pitcher, Kenny Rogers, off the mound. Lopez had driven in another in the third, and Andrew Jones added another in the fifth.

The Braves' bandwagon was rolling swiftly towards a 3-1 series lead with the chance to clinch the championship at home in game five. Then the wheels started to fly off.

An innocuous mistake — not an official error — by the young Atlanta outfielder, Jerome Dye, began the trouble.

He failed to catch a routine fly-ball from Derrek Jeter that dropped into foul territory. His manager, Bobby Cox, later blamed the umpire for getting in the way, but Dye seemed simply to have misjudged the flight of the ball. Thus reprieved, Jeter singled. Neagle walked Williams, putting two men on base, and when poor Dye misplayed



Leyritz, the New York pinch-hitter, watches the ball soar into the stands to tie the score at 6-6 against Atlanta

Cecil Fielder's ground ball — this time the error was official — two runs were scored. Another followed when Hayes drove in Fielder and the lead was halved.

The Braves should still have been safe enough, particularly once Mike Bielecki had pitched two brilliant innings of scoreless relief, but then Cox made a fateful decision. He elected to bring his usually rickety closer, Mark Wohlers, into play an inning early, even though Bielecki seemed to have the Yankees in hand.

Wohlers' first pitch to Hayes dribbled off the bat and towards foul territory, but by the time that Wohlers realised it was not going to cross the line (and thus pass out of play), Hayes was safely at first. Strawberry singled up the middle and, in a desperate

throw, Joe Torre, the Yankees manager, sent up Jim Leyritz as a pinch-hitter. Wohlers threw him a slider (a sort of hybrid fast-curve ball) instead of his usual 97mph fast ball, and Leyritz smashed it into the leftfield seats.

The scores were tied, and although the Braves escaped further damage in that inning, no one with a feel for sporting destiny could doubt who would win. Sure enough, after a couple of near misses, the Yankees took the lead when the hapless Steve Avery, who had relieved Wohlers, loaded the bases, then walked in a run. The Yankees added

another on a dreadful mistake by Klesko and the game was over.

"A lot of things went wrong for us tonight," Cox said. "We'll bounce back." Torre was elated but cautious. "We are going back to New York but I am not sure that's an advantage," he said. He has a point. The Yankees have won all seven away games they have played in the post-season so far, and neither team in this series has won a home fixture.

The winning pitcher turned out to be the Yankees' reliever, Graeme Lloyd, who had already gained distinction by becoming the first Australian

to play in the World Series. Lloyd joined the Yankees from the Milwaukee Brewers last month in a controversial trade.

The fact that he seemed to be carrying an elbow injury attracted the attention of the Yankees' medical owner, George Steinbrenner, and has put the job of the man who made the trade, general manager Bob Watson, in jeopardy. I had no idea what I was going into, Lloyd said. "I have learnt a hell of a lot in three weeks in New York. I hope I have emerged the better for it. I wanted to show the people I could pitch."

As Berra also said: "You've got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there." The Atlanta Braves might understand what he meant.

## DETAILS FROM GAME FOUR

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Runs	Hits	Errors
New York Yankees	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	12	0
Atlanta Braves	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	9	2

## Time to lay down law on level playing field

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

Rugby remains an intricate sport. Its many idiosyncrasies are unsatisfactory for a sport from which, henceforward, many players will earn their full-time salaries. I suspect that, in the next few seasons, the ability of the game's laws to give rise to various interpretations may prove the most problematical factor in turning the sport successfully from its amateur ways into a mature profession.

Players cannot be left in doubt as to why a match was lost and wonder why they are not returning home with the fatter wallets of a victory bonus.

The dubious winning penalty kick was once so much fodder for bar-room banter. It may still be so for the moment. But not for very much longer. A livelihood will hang in the balance and it will not simply be an excuse for another round of a gang's favouritism. This is serious stuff.

Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps flanker, had a graceless whinge when his team lost to Cardiff recently. He felt that his opponents transgressed too often. The easy award of seven points for a penalty try, for which he might have wished and which is prevalent in English circles at the moment, is not going to be rugby's salvation from want of clarity and precision.

Penalties are ubiquitous. In Wasps' match against Gloucester the previous week, there were 43 of them. A penalty count in the mid-30s is a common feature. This is an intolerably high figure for a sport earning its self-respect.

Matches are marred by recurrent infringements of the law: teams win and lose in a jumble of mistakes, upon the rise and fall of their luck or otherwise in the penalty ratio, and not specifically on the demonstration of their inherent skills. This is no way to conduct a business.

There are other difficulties. The referee of Llanelli's game against Pau in the Heineken Cup last Saturday had to be escorted off the field at the end of the match because of all the

the scrum is in progress, no additional players can be added.

The lineup nowadays is a much clearer phase without the obstruction and the limitations of the past. Yet, contrary to what we see, the law states that no player can lift a colleague in his team. He may be "supported" up and above the waist, provided the player is jumping for the ball, but "lifting" is not allowed. There is evidence in every game, indeed in almost every lineup, that this law is conspicuously flouted.

But the area that creates the most acute problem is at the point of the tackle. The law states clearly that, after the tackle, "any other player must be on his feet when he plays the ball". Even the interpretation of this can differ. Apparently there are times in Scotland when it is permissible for the players to go to the ground to play the ball. This is odd in view of the law's straightforward wording.

Recently, John Bacigalupo, a referee from Scotland, had to issue instructions to Welsh and Irish clubs playing in the Heineken Cup that he would play according to their interpretation and not that of his own country. To add to the confusion, Gareth Jenkins, of Llanelli, promptly misunderstood this. This is hardly the way for a professional sport to conduct its affairs.

This is the area that gives rise to hindrance and to the greatest number of penalties. It needs to be resolved. After all, a repeated infringement carries with it the threat of a penalty try or a dismissal from the field.

Clearly, in these circumstances, it is easier to administer a penalty try rather than to justify, in an uncertain situation, the sending off of a man. However, the award of seven easy points for a penalty try when a score might not have been probable is not a satisfactory solution. Either way, a man's livelihood could be at risk.

The law is clear. It needs to be acted upon. Hitherto, this has not been, stringently enough, the case.

## Court of Appeal

## Law Report October 25 1996

## Employment Appeal Tribunal

## No service on non-party abroad

Tate and Lyle Industries Ltd v CIA Usina Bulhoes and Carrill Inc  
Before Lord Justice Hobhouse  
[Judgment August 2]

The High Court had no power to allow service out of the jurisdiction of proceedings relating to an arbitration to which the proposed defendant was not a party. There could thus be no jurisdiction to issue an ex parte injunction against such a proposed defendant.

Lord Justice Hobhouse, sitting as a single judge in the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, so stated on an application for the continuation of an ex parte injunction granted in favour of Tate and Lyle pending an appeal to the Court of Appeal against the refusal by Mr Justice Clarke to continue that injunction.

The relevant parties were only two of the parties to the proceedings, namely Tate and Lyle Ltd, domiciled in the UK and applying for the injunction, and Carrill Inc, the second defendant, domiciled in the USA.

Tate and Lyle were in dispute with Bulhoes over the ownership of a cargo of sugar which had been sold to Carrill Inc.

Mr Justice Clarke had decided earlier that day in the Queen's Bench Division that there was no basis on which the originating summons could properly be issued and served on Carrill Inc. Therefore he was not prepared to grant any relief to Tate and Lyle against Carrill for want of territorial or personal jurisdiction over Carrill. He therefore discharged the ex parte injunction.

Mr Edmund Broadbent for the

appellants; Mr Mark Hoyle for Carrill.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that there was a contractual nexus between Tate and Lyle and the first defendant, Bulhoes, a Brazilian company with their place of business in Brazil, which had entered a contract for the sale of sugar yet to be produced and for its purchase by Tate and Lyle.

The nexus included an arbitration clause for arbitration in London. There was no contractual nexus whatsoever between Carrill and Tate and Lyle.

As between the plaintiffs and Bulhoes, the plaintiffs were entitled to rely upon clause 12 of the Arbitration Act 1950 which gave the High Court jurisdiction to grant an interim injunction against Bulhoes. Similarly, Order 73, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court appeared to give the plaintiffs as against Bulhoes a right to obtain leave to issue the originating summons in this case asking for relief under section 12 of the 1950 Act and to serve that originating summons out of the jurisdiction on Bulhoes.

That left open the question as to whether either section 12 or Order 73, rule 7 had any application to someone who was not a party to an arbitration agreement. Carrill were not such a party.

In *Unicargo v Floet* (unreported, November 16, 1995) Mr Justice Clarke had held that Order 73, rule 7 did not apply to persons who were not parties to an arbitration agreement. His Lordship found that reasoning persuasive.

However, Mr Justice Clarke in the instant case, when acting on that judgment and refusing to continue the injunction and to

discharge it as against Carrill for want of jurisdiction, gave leave to appeal.

The judge, therefore, accepted that there were arguable points capable and suitable for consideration by the Court of Appeal that arose out of his decision in *Unicargo* and his application of it to the present case.

His Lordship proceeded on the same assumptions. The plaintiffs had an arguable point to raise before the Court of Appeal. However, that did not mean that they should automatically have an injunction pending the hearing. His Lordship approached the matter applying the principles in *American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd* (1975) AC 396.

His Lordship noted that Tate and Lyle might have a remedy against Carrill in damages. Equally they might have a proprietary remedy based on asserting rights to the money received by Carrill from their sub-purchaser. In both cases Tate and Lyle had rights against Carrill in damages or would represent one it was in the hands of Bulhoes, a fund which could be identified with the relevant sugar.

It was said that it was necessary to have an injunction not only

against Bulhoes but also against Carrill to prevent the dissipation of that fund once in the hands of Bulhoes or someone holding it on their behalf.

There might be the necessity for relief against Bulhoes or against the bank holding the fund. One could not see what was the proprietary basis or the necessity of an injunction against Carrill.

If there was some appropriate way of seeking to freeze a fund which only existed abroad and with which the UK at the moment had no connection whatsoever, the appropriate course, and the convenient course for Tate and Lyle to adopt was to take the appropriate proceedings in the jurisdiction where it could find the debtor, Carrill, or where the fund was going to be brought into existence.

It did not seem that the balance of convenience was in any way in favour of the English court intervening in what was essentially a foreign problem which was properly dealt with by the courts of the USA, or if involved, by the courts of Brazil.

If it had been necessary to carry out a balancing exercise, there were significant factors to be placed on the other side of the scale. The court was being asked to interfere with contractual obligations of Carrill with Bulhoes, which did not have any connection with the UK and which would inevitably expose Carrill to some element of liability to Bulhoes.

Injunctions should not be granted against third parties where they would interfere with third-party contractual obligations.

Solicitors: Ince & Co. Mr Brian Perrott, Cobham.

Barry v Midland Bank plc  
Before Lord Justice Mummery,  
Mr R. Straker and Mr A. Tuffin  
[Judgment October 3]

A woman bank clerk who had worked for 11 years full-time and then following the birth of her child, two years part-time, before taking voluntary severance, was not unlawfully discriminated against on the ground of her sex in relation to the calculation of severance pay based solely on her part-time salary as at the date of severance.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal by Mrs Jacqueline Barry from an industrial tribunal sitting at London (South) in June 1995. She had been discriminated against by her employers, Midland Bank plc.

Ms Cherie Booth, QC and Mr Clive Lewis for the applicant; Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Ms Sue Ashtary, solicitor, for the bank.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that it was a test case on a general principle which might affect not only others under the bank's severance scheme but also many employees under similar severance schemes as well as the statutory redundancy scheme.

The applicant had contended that by calculating her redundancy payment in the way they did the bank had indirectly discriminated against her in that it applied to her the condition that she had to be working full-time at the date of the termination of her employment in order to avoid her redundancy payment being calculated as if all her years of service were years of part-time service and that that had resulted in her redundancy payment being less than that of a man who was able to comply with that condition.

She alleged contravention of section 6(2) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, of her contract, as modified by the equality clause deemed to be included by virtue of section 6(4) of the Equal Pay Act 1970, and of article 119 of the EC Treaty. She contended that the bank were unable to justify the discriminatory condition or to establish that the variation between the effect of her contract on her and of the contract of a full-time man on him, was genuinely due to a material factor irrespective of sex.

The issues were whether the tribunal had erred in law in holding that there was no indirect discrimination on the ground of sex contrary to article 119, that the practice complained of did not fall within the scope of section 6(1) of the 1975 Act; that indirect discrimination was not objectively justifiable and that any difference in the treatment of persons in the position of the applicant was due to a genuine material factor other than the difference of sex. It was common ground that the applicant's payment was made in accordance with the security of employment agreement, a collective agreement concluded between the bank and the union; that article 119 of the Act was irrelevant; that article

## Bank did not discriminate

119 was directly effective in tribunals as between individuals; that the reference to "pay" in article 119 included voluntary severance payments; that article 119 prohibited indirect discrimination on the ground of sex when a provision in a collective agreement had a disproportionate adverse impact on women and that in the case of incompatibility between the statutory provisions and article 119, the tribunal had to give effect to the primacy of the provisions of Community law.

The decision in *R v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* (1992) ICR 341 (DC); (1993) ICR 251 (CA) set the scene.

The first issue in that case was not relevant to the issues in the present case. The relevant application was an unsuccessful attack by the Equal Opportunities Commission on the method of calculating statutory redundancy pay in cases where the individual worked full-time, before becoming employed part-time and was employed part-time at the date of redundancy.

In that case the Divisional Court decided that there was no infringement of article 119 despite the fact that more women than men were affected by the changes from full-time to part-time employment. The decision of the Divisional Court

was not overruled by the Court of Appeal. The importance of that case was that there was an unsuccessful challenge to the statutory redundancy scheme on which the bank's scheme was broadly based. The legal position of the statutory redundancy scheme remained as decided by the Divisional Court.

The industrial tribunal was legally correct in dismissing the application in the present case.

Although the applicant's claim was multi-pronged it could only be a claim under the 1970 Act. The 1975 Act was not concerned with discrimination in the matter of pay.

There was no free-standing claim for breach of article 119. The voluntary severance payments were made as a contractual payment under her contract of employment. The critical question was whether the relevant terms of the applicant's contract were less favourable than the terms of a similar kind in the contract of a male comparator. The answer was "No" for the following reasons:

The scheme as a whole did not treat a woman such as the applicant less favourably than a man in her situation. Similarly she would have had no complaint under the 1970 Act if she had been

a part-time worker who became a full-time worker before opting for redundancy. As with the statutory scheme the bank's scheme was not formulated so as to treat either women less favourably than men or part-time workers less favourably than full-time workers. The essence of the applicant's complaint was that the bank should have constructed the scheme to include rules which would ensure that payments for voluntary severance mirrored more precisely the nature of past service rendered by employees before redundancy.

The essential point was that the rules of the scheme were not in themselves discriminatory and had not been applied to the applicant in a discriminatory way. The appeal would be dismissed on the discrimination point.

If there was a variation between the applicant's contract and that of a male comparator, the appeal tribunal agreed with the industrial tribunal that the difference was due to a material factor not based on sex within the meaning of section 1(3) of the 1970 Act, administrative convenience, plus the intention to cushion employees against the loss of their work, particularly older, long serving employees. Solicitors: Lawford & Co, Richmond; Cole & Cole, Oxford.

## Devisee can make land contract

Wu Koon Tai and Another v Wu Yau Lai

A devisee of land comprised in an unadministered estate could enter into a binding contract to sell that land.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Brown-Wilkinson, Lord Slyn of Hadley, Lord Cooke of Thorndon and Sir Ralph Gibson) on held on October 10, in allowing an appeal by the appellants, Wu Koon Tai and Wu Koon Lun, from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong.

That court had allowed an appeal by the respondent, Wu Yau Lai, from the judgment in the District Court of Hong Kong by Judge Wong, who had upheld the appellants' claim to be entitled to certain land and had ordered the respondent to vest that land in them.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that it was the principle of English law that, while the estate of a deceased person was in course of administration, no beneficiary under the will or intestacy had any beneficial interest in any specific asset of that estate: he had only a right to have the estate duly administered. Lord Sudeley, Attorney-General (1897) AC 111.

Until completion of the administration and the vesting of the property in the devisee, the devisee could not convey the land in specie. But their Lordships were referred to no authority to suggest that such

such a contract and a contract for value to assign a future chose in action. As and from the date when the chose in action came into existence, the contract became specifically enforceable.

devisee could not validly contract to sell the land at a time when his interest was a mere chose in action or expectancy. Their Lordships could see no distinction in principle between

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RUGBY LEAGUE: GREAT BRITAIN FORWARD PINS FAITH ON RISING STARS

Betts sets out with record in sight

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE IN PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW ZEALAND

DENIS BETTS, only 27 but the elder statesman of the pack, is two games away in his adopted New Zealand homeland from equalling Cliff Watson's record for Great Britain appearances as a forward. Thirty was the figure Betts had his sights on at the outset of his international career six years ago, a goal that will now be revising after the tour winds up in Christchurch next Friday.

"If you take four England matches as well, I'm already past 30," he said. "Hopefully, I'll play as many times as I can, provided they pick me. If they don't, then it'll be time to retire." Not that he is contemplating such action just yet. He has another year at Auckland Warriors and a further two on his Australasian Super League contract before an intended swansong back in England.

Andrew Farrell, Britain's youngest captain, Paul Scullthorpe and Adrian Morley, Betts's back-row teammates, are all more youthful than when he first toured. The generation that emerged from the visit to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand in 1990 equipped the Britain side impressively for several years. If there is a difference, it is that today's talent is better still, according to Betts.

"The circumstances are similar," he said. "In 1990, no one

gave us a hope in hell. The midweek side lost all but one game, but we pulled out a series win against the Kiwis. Myself, Phil Clarke and Daryl Powell came up from the tour, but the youngsters today have even more. Even if this tour isn't a success, it's giving these blokes a grounding to face Australia at home next year and the 1998 World Cup. This side can only improve."

If Britain lose the second match in Palmerston North this morning, sealing a series victory for New Zealand, it will be because much of the experience Britain does possess is either injured or otherwise temporarily occupied in rugby union. Even so, Betts is far from discouraged at the playing side. It is off the field that his criticisms are directed. He is particularly upset that nine players — in addition to two injured players — should be sent home in mid-tour to reduce costs.

"Why are we on tour when plainly the Rugby Football League can't afford it? It's bad man-management to fly 32 blokes and an Academy side halfway round the world, not give them proper funding, and then send half the side home halfway through."

The New Zealand Rugby League has failed to promote the series and the tour's running at a loss. I expected this

tour to be the best organised and it's the worst."

The organisational dithering was not improved when Keith Senior, the Sheffield Eagles centre who was among those to be sent home, was suddenly re-instated.

All this contrasts with the slick operation of the Warriors, all the trappings of success and a high profile for the English anti-hero of this tour. Betts calls New Zealand his "oil rig", an off-shore workplace. Appealing though it is, home remains England and he still gets pangs watching Wigan, his former club.

Betts and Clarke left Central Park for the Australasian Premiership 20 months ago because success at Wigan had become routine, but in an Auckland side that struggled badly last season, Betts reacquainted himself with the pain of losing. For Clarke, the pain was real, a broken neck in a playing accident has almost certainly ended an outstanding career at 25.

"Like Phil, in England I'd hit a plateau," Betts said. "Then, something like this happens to him, and you just think, I've been lucky. The opportunities presented by the Super League and the World Club Series next year are encouraging. But for me, I can't wait to return home and face the likes of Wigan with Auckland."



Betts believes the young Britain side can only improve

RUGBY UNION

Underwood dropped by Leicester

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RORY UNDERWOOD has been dropped by Leicester for the first time in his career — a month after being dropped by England. The nation's most-capped player and leading try-scorer has been replaced on the wing by Leon Lloyd for the Heineken Cup meeting with Pau on Saturday.

The move comes after Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, decided that Underwood's duties as an RAF pilot were affecting his rugby performances. "I am not happy about it, but I'd like to see an England and Lions winger play like an England and Lions winger," Dwyer said.

"For reasons outside his control, Rory is missing a lot of the work we are doing. The fact of the matter is that Leon is playing consistently better."

The leading players in England will be available to play in this season's international matches despite the breakdown of talks between the Rugby Football Union and first and second division clubs. The English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) announced yesterday that its players would be available for the first international, against Italy, on November 23.

Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, also said there was no intention of breaking away from the RFU but, as a protest, players will not be released for the series of divisional matches against touring teams over the next two months.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Becker serves notice of vintage form

BORIS BECKER, the No 6 seed from Germany, produced some vintage serving — including winning his first 14 service points — to beat Thomas Enqvist, the world No 12 from Sweden, 6-4, 7-5 to reach the quarter-finals of the Eurocard Open tennis tournament in Stuttgart yesterday.

"My tactics were clear — play my game from the start," Becker said. "I think I did that extremely well."

Andre Agassi, of the United States, joined Becker in the last eight by beating Richey Reneberg, his Davis Cup teammate, 6-4, 6-2 in just 59 minutes but Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion, from Holland, was beaten 6-4, 6-1 by Marcelo Rios, the No 10 seed from Chile.

Scottish hopes high

HOCKEY: Scotland go into their semi-final against New Zealand in the preliminary round of the women's World Cup with considerable confidence tonight. They turned in a near-flawless performance to defeat South Africa 3-2 in their group match in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on Wednesday.

New Zealand's hopes hinge largely on the form of Anna Lawrence, the captain, who is the tournament's leading scorer with ten goals.

Llanelli capture

RUGBY UNION: Llanelli have signed Fata Sini, the 26-year-old Salford rugby league winger. The Western Samoan is returning to his first code after only 14 months with Salford, who will not receive a transfer fee. Sini scored two tries for Western Samoa in their World Cup defeat by England in South Africa last year.

Gareth Taylor, the Neath flanker, is to join Newport, who are struggling in the Welsh first division.

Marsh to take charge

CRICKET: Steve Marsh, who succeeded Alan Knott as Kent wicketkeeper in 1986, is expected to be appointed captain of the club today (Ivo Tennant writes). He has been nominated by the cricket committee, which met under the chairmanship of Derek Ufton on Wednesday. Marsh will succeed Mark Benson, who has not been retained by Kent after injury. □ England are listed third from bottom in a new world Test ranking compiled by Wisden, based on results since 1990.

CRICKET: PAKISTAN DOMINATE HISTORIC DAY IN FAISALABAD

Zimbabwe swept aside by Wasim

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WASIM AKRAM, the Pakistan captain, continued as the scourge of Zimbabwe yesterday, taking six for 48 as they were dismissed for 133 on the opening day of the second and final Test in Faisalabad.

The Lancashire all-rounder, who hit an unbeaten 257 in the drawn first Test last week, captured three wickets in both morning and afternoon sessions after he had lost the toss. It was the 21st occasion he had taken five or more wickets in an innings for his country. Although Zimbabwe hit

back well after tea, Matamanzu marking his debut with the wicket of Amir Sohail and Mbanga getting rid of Ijaz Ahmed so that Pakistan were ten for two. Saeed Arwar stood firm.

He was 69 not out when Pakistan closed at 114 for three. His partnership with 14-year-old Hassan Raza is so far worth 47. The schoolboy, who seemed unfazed by becoming the youngest Test cricketer, survived a leg-before appeal before getting off the mark with a four and moved confidently to 20 not out, hitting four boundaries.

Andrew Flower, with a fighting 61, did his best to keep the Pakistan bowlers at bay but lacked support as he tried to fashion a recovery from 55 for five.

He was last out, top-edging Shahid Nazir to another Test newcomer, Mohammad Hussain, who had earlier captured the wicket of Paul Strang.

**PAKISTAN: First Innings**  
Saeed Arwar not out 69  
Amir Sohail bowled by Matamanzu 2  
Ijaz Ahmed c A Flower b B Strang 20  
Salim Malik c A Flower b B Strang 18  
Hassan Raza not out 15  
Fazal Mahmood 7  
Total (25 overs) 133

**ZIMBABWE: First Innings**  
G.W. Flower b Wasim 15  
M.H. Dube c Moin b Wasim 39  
C.H. Tait not out 3  
D.L. Houghton b Wasim 1  
A.Campbell c Moin b Saqib 1  
I.Akber c Mohammed Hussain 1  
S.Shahid 61  
G.A. White b Wasim 4  
P.A. Robinson 3  
F.A. Mohammed Hussain 3

BASEBALL

**WORLD SERIES:** New York 10 Atlanta 8 (10 innings; seven-game series tied 2-2).

BOXING

**HALIFAX:** Commonwealth super-middleweight championship: Henry Thomas (Wales) v Rick Thompson (USA) 20; Welterweight (Irish): Derek Hutchins (Leeds) v Paul Dainoff (Washington State); Super-middleweight (Burmese): Jason Thomas (Merthyr) vs (Irish): Jason Whisker (Aber); Chris Thomas (Aber) vs Lightweight (Irish): Ryan (Ireland) vs Fred Reed (USA) 1st; Middleweight (Irish): Ron Hopley (Pipon) vs Roy Chippindale (USA) 2nd.

CYCLING

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Boland Bank Tour: Fourth stage (133km), R. Kenna (Ireland) 4th; 5th, M. McKay (GB); 6th, A. Wolter (SA) both same time. Overall positions: 1, R. Lousie (SA) 10th; 25th, 155cc; 2, A. Wolter (SA) at 41cc; 3, R. Kenna (Ireland) same time, 9, M. McKay (GB) 10th; 35cc.

FOOTBALL

**AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD:** First-round draw: Northern section: Scunthorpe v Notts County; Chesterfield v Preston; Carlisle v Rochdale; Doncaster v Stockport; Barnsley v Darlington; Luton v Chester City; Crewe, Lincoln, Mansfield, Southport, Shrewsbury, Wigan, Wrexham and York. Southern section: Barnsley v Brentford; Cambridge Utd v Colchester; Colchester v Fulham; Gillingham v Millwall; Gillingham v Cardiff; Luton v Leyton Orient; Swanssea v Wycombe; Plymouth v Bournemouth; Burnley, Bristol City, Wexham, Northampton, Peterborough, Torquay, Walsall and Waltham.

GOLF

**EUROPEAN TOUR PRE-QUALIFYING SCHOOL:** Leading second-round scores: Simpson: 134; C. Clark (Eng) 66; 68; 136; F. Clark (Sct) 71; 65; 137; R. Gonzalez (Wsl) 66; 71; 138; W. Bennett (Eng) 70; 68; A. Watson 77.

HOCKEY

**PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad:** Women's World Cup: Preliminary round: Group A: Belgium 4 France 2; India 5 Trinidad 4; Tokyo 1; Italy 5; Jamaica 2; Scotland 3; South Africa 2; Group positions: 1, India 12pts; 2, Scotland 10; 3, South Africa 10; 4, Italy 8; 5, Jamaica 5; 6, Trinidad 3; 7, Tokyo 1; Group B: Czech Republic 1; New Zealand 5; Group positions: 1, New Zealand 12; 2, Japan 8; 3, Belgium 7; 4, Czech Republic 4; 5, France 3; 6, Cuba 0.

ICE HOCKEY

**NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL):** Detroit 4 Dallas 1; Florida 5 Chicago 2; Washington 8 NY Rangers 2; Colorado 4 Vancouver 1.

**PREMIER LEAGUE:** Sheffield 4 Newcastle 1

**PREMIER LEAGUE:** Quilford 10 Peterborough 0.

RUGBY UNION

**INTERNATIONAL MATCH:** Italy 18 Australia 40 (In Pool)

**SRU UNDER-21 INTER-DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP:** Glasgow 23 Scottish Eagles 23; South of Scotland 20 North and Mid Scotland 07

**SCHOOLS MATCHES:** Clackston HS 8 Wornth 17; King's, Taunton 22; Gresham's 0

SNOKER

**SOUTH-EAST ENGLISH CENTRE:** Grand Prix: Quarter-finals: M. Bennett (Wales) vs T. Droop (Wales) 5-1

SPEEDWAY

**NORTHERN THREE-TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP:** Hull 31 Middlesbrough 27 Bradford 26.

TABLE TENNIS

**WIMBLEDON:** Men's World Cup: Group A: Kong Lingpao (China) vs P. Chih (Taipei) 21-18, 21-17, 21-17; J.O. Waldner (Sweden) vs P. Jackson (USA) 21-13, 21-17; Group B: Lu Qiangling (China) vs Z. Phansopa (Thailand) 21-20, 21-20, 21-10; P. H. Chen (Taipei) vs J. J. Patterson (USA) 21-17, 21-25; Y. Tang (China) vs S. G. Park (Korea) 21-13, 21-13.

TENNIS

**STUTTGART:** Men's tournament: Second round: A. Agassi (USA) vs A. Bertranou (Fiji) 6-1, 7-6; M. Rios (Chile) vs S. Lauer (USA) 6-7, 7-6; 6-4; T. Enqvist (Swe) vs N. Pietrangeli (ITA) 6-4, 6-4; M. Rios (Chile) vs M. Stich (GER) 6-3, 7-6; Third round: M. Gustafsson (Swe) vs M. Woodhouse (AUS) 6-7, 6-2, 7-6; B. Becker (GER) vs E. Agassi (USA) 7-6; Agassi vs R. Nemes (GER) 6-4, 6-3; Rios vs R. Krajicek (NED) 6-4, 6-1; S. Lauer vs R. Furber (USA) 6-4, 6-4; K. Henkel (GER) vs S. G. Park (Korea) 6-4, 6-2.

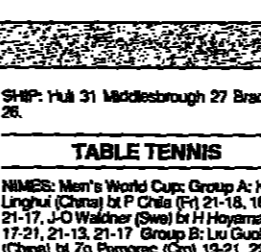
WINDSURFING

**SCHVENNINGEN:** World championship: Final overall positions: Nemo, 1; B. Danvers (USA), 2; P. Botsch (Fiji), 3; Birgitte (Swe), 4; M. Laursen (Den), 5; J. Müller (GER), 6; K. Jøggi (Swe), 7.

SHEEHAN ON BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In all today's examples you are leading a suit that your partner has bid. In a recent refresher I mentioned that from three to an honour in partner's suit you should always lead low rather than the honour. Here are a couple of examples to show you why. Consider these two possible layouts:



In layout (i), if you lead the jack, declarer will win the king. If your partner gets in and continues the suit, declarer will play the ten, thus making three tricks in the suit. If you lead the five declarer will win partner's queen with his king. Then if your partner gets in and continues the suit, you will be able to beat declarer's ten with your jack. Declarer will make only two tricks.

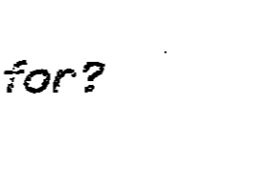
In layout (ii), if you lead the queen, declarer will make two tricks in the suit. If you lead the five, declarer will win your partner's king with his ace. When partner gets in and continues with the ten, you will be able to beat declarer's jack with your queen and restrict declarer to one winner.

Against a suit contract similar positions can occur but in addition it may be important for partner to be able to distinguish between your holding two or three cards in his suit. Consider these layouts:



In layout (iii), you lead the queen which declarer covers with the king and East wins with the ace. East now knows that he can cash the jack and give you a ruff. It may be important to do this before declarer discards a loser on a long suit elsewhere. If you were also to lead the queen on layout (iv), this defence would be disastrous. All East would succeed in doing would be to set up the ten as a trick for declarer. If you make the correct lead of the five, declarer will play the ten and East the jack. When that holds East knows that you started with Q65.

The time when it is sometimes right to lead the honour is when you think that declarer has a singleton in partner's suit. Consider this layout:



If you lead the two deuce will surely play low from dummy, not expecting you to lead from an ace at trick one. Your partner will have to play his ace and declarer's king will be set up. If, on the other hand, you lead the queen, partner's ace will be used to kill declarer's king.

At the halfway stage of the Olympiad in Rhodes, the men's British Open team is lying seventh in its qualifying group after two victories, one defeat and a draw. The women's team is lying fifth, with wins over San Marino (22-9) and Pakistan (25-4).

KEENE ON CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Guernsey Festival

After three rounds of the Barings Guernsey International Chess Festival Kevin Thurlow, John Quinn and Anthony Corlett share the lead on 3 points with Denis Paillard, of France. In hot pursuit are the grandmaster, Bogdan Lalic, and the former British champion, Robert Bellin, on 2.5 points.

**White:** K Thurlow  
**Black:** K Buckley  
Barings Guernsey International Chess Festival, October 1996

King's Indian Defence

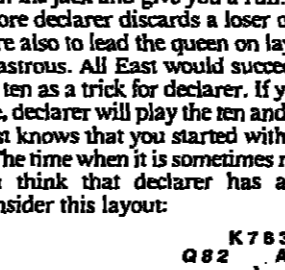
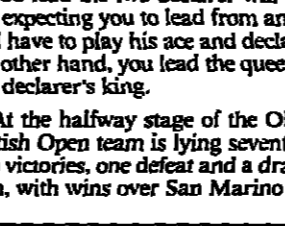


Diagram of final position



WINNING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Pankratov v Biktschiev, Tashkent 1983. Both players have a very well placed minor piece: Black has his knight on e5 while White has his bishop on d5. How did White prove that his was the more relevant to the position?

By Philip Howard

- PROODE**  
a. A hypocrite  
b. A preliminary ode  
c. To sweep a chimney
- PRAMNIAN**  
a. An Ionic tribe  
b. Equally balanced  
c. Wine
- QUIRT**  
a. A sneak  
b. The young badger  
c. A whip
- ROMBOWLINE**  
a. An old mire  
b. A sailors' hornpipe  
c. Fish stew

Answers on page 46

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Pankratov v Biktschiev, Tashkent 1983. Both players have a very well placed minor piece: Black has his knight on e5 while White has his bishop on d5. How did White prove that his was the more relevant to the position?

By Raymond Keene

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Solution on page 46

Specifically who is Yakult for?

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FOOTBALL

# North East derby highlights draw as cup field narrows

By Russell Kempson

PASSIONS in the North East will run high on November 27, when Middlesbrough face Newcastle United in the Coca-Cola Cup fourth round at the Riverside Stadium. Although the match has been chosen for live screening on television, tickets for the resumption of Tyne-Tees hostilities will nonetheless be scarce.

Newcastle will be missing Alan Shearer, as he recuperates after groin surgery, while Middlesbrough could be without Nicky Barmby. Speculation over his future at the club continued yesterday, after he was left out of the side's 5-1 third-round victory against Huddersfield Town on Wednesday night.

Middlesbrough barely missed him, with Fabrizio Ravazzoli, the Italian striker, scoring twice and taking his Coca-Cola Cup tally to six

**FOURTH ROUND**

Charlton Athletic or Liverpool v Stoke City or Arsenal  
West Ham United v Stockport County  
Ipswich Town v Gillingham or Coventry City  
Bolton Wanderers v Tottenham Hotspur  
Middlesbrough v Newcastle United  
Wimbledon or Luton Town v Aston Villa  
Port Vale or Oxford United v Southampton or Lincoln City  
Leicester City v Manchester United  
 Ties to be played on Nov 26 or 27

goals in two matches. Including his efforts in the FA Carling Premiership this season, he has amassed 13 goals in 12 games.

There are still 22 clubs in what is the last 16 of the competition, because of six replays, with Liverpool lined up to take on Arsenal at Anfield if the pair can dispose of Charlton Athletic and Stoke City, respectively.

are no ifs or buts, Leicester landed the plum tie, with a visit from Manchester United to Filbert Street on November 27. Three days later, they travel to Old Trafford for an FA Carling Premiership fixture.

O'Neill said: "I was listening to the draw, knew the numbers on the balls and then knew there were only two clubs left in it, us and United. If we could not get one of the so-called minnows, we might as well get the very best. It's a guaranteed full house and a great tie for the supporters."

Stockport County, one of three Nationwide League second division clubs remaining in the competition, travel to West Ham United, while Lincoln City, the sole representatives from the third division, have an away tie at Port Vale or Oxford United if they can overcome Southampton in a replay at Sincil Bank, Aston Villa, the holders, will meet Wimbledon or Luton Town.

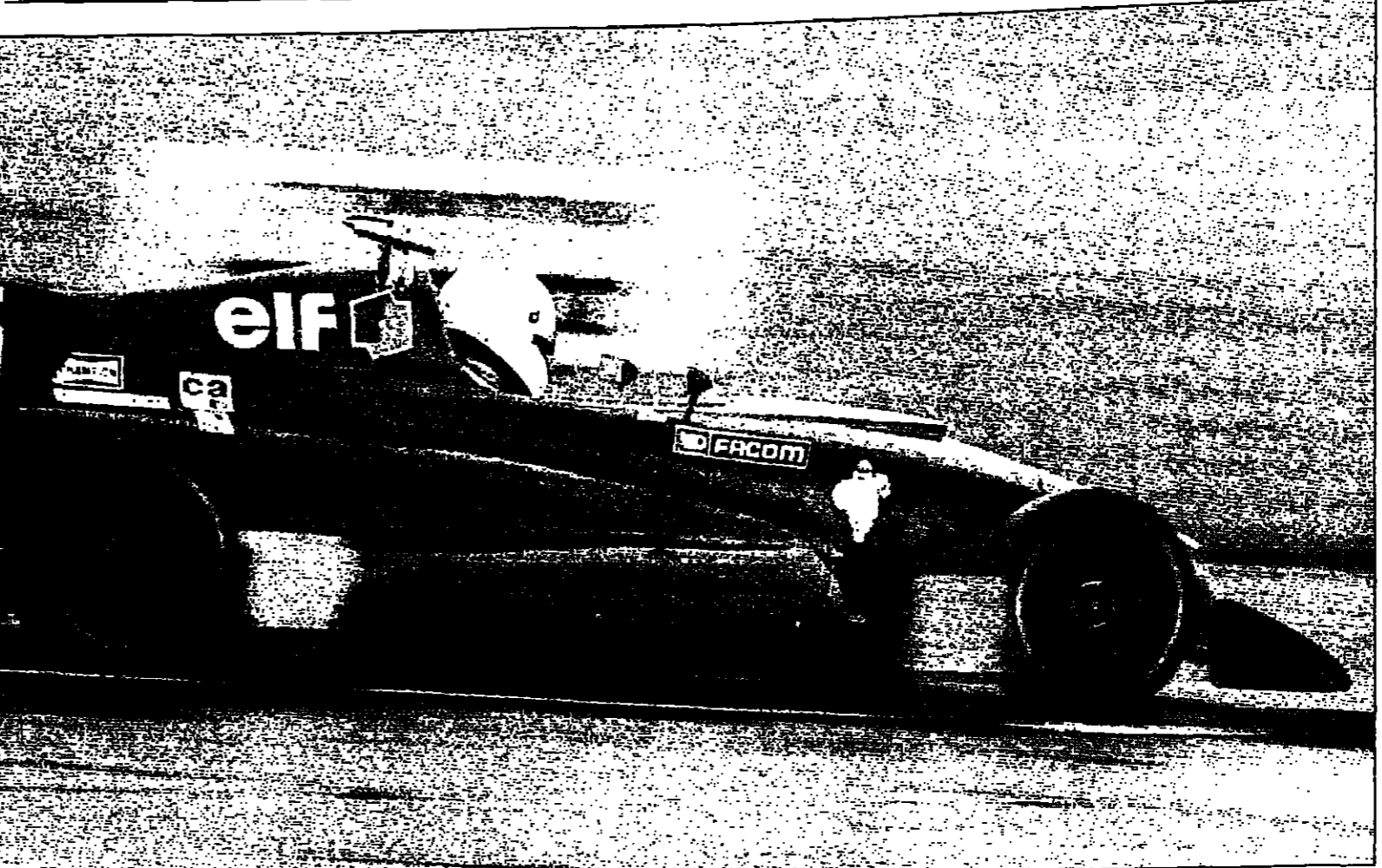
Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager and his assistant, were yesterday fined by an FA commission for incidents during a match on August 29. Strachan was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay part of the hearing's costs for refusing to leave the field after he had been sent off by Tony Green, the referee, during Coventry's reserve game with West Bromwich Albion. Atkinson was fined £750 and ordered to pay part of the hearing's costs for comments made to Green after he had halted the game when Strachan refused to accept his dismissal.

Dave Bassett, the Crystal Palace manager, yesterday signed Neil Shipperley, the Southampton striker, on a four-year contract for £1 million, subject to a medical examination. He is expected to make his debut against Grimsby Town tomorrow.

**WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS**

<b>COCA-COLA CUP:</b> Third round, Charlton Athletic 1, Liverpool 1, Leeds United 1, Aston Villa 2, Manchester United 1, Swindon Town 1, Middlesbrough 5, Huddersfield Town 1, Newcastle United 1, Oxford Athletic 0, Southampton 2, Lincoln City 2, Stoke City 1, Arsenal 1, Tottenham Hotspur 2, Sunderland 1, West Ham United 4, Nottingham Forest 1.	<b>SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP:</b> Semi-final, Hearts of Midlothian 3, Dundee 1 (at Easter Road).	<b>WORLD CUP:</b> European qualifying: Group six, Slovakia 3, Faroe Islands 0 (in Bratislava).	<b>FA YOUTH CUP:</b> Second qualifying round, Cambridge 3, Weymouth 1; Walsley 2, Hinton 3, Aveley 3, Rayston 0, Gornal 1, Bromgrove 2.		
<b>WORLD CUP:</b> European qualifying: Group six, Slovakia 3, Faroe Islands 0 (in Bratislava).	<b>FA YOUTH CUP:</b> Second qualifying round, Cambridge 3, Weymouth 1; Walsley 2, Hinton 3, Aveley 3, Rayston 0, Gornal 1, Bromgrove 2.	<b>DUTCH LEAGUE:</b> Eerste Divisie 1, AZ Alkmaar 0, Heerenveen 0, PSV Eindhoven 1, Sparta Rotterdam 0, Vitesse Arnhem 1, Groningen 1, NEC Nijmegen 1, Fortuna Sittard 1, Almere City 1, Feyenoord 0, Utrecht 1, Twente 1, De Graafschap 0, Emmen 1, Excelsior Rotterdam 1, SC Heerenveen 0, FC Dordrecht 0, FC Volendam 1, FC Oss 0, FC Kerkrade 0, FC Eindhoven 0, FC Kerkrade 0, FC Kerkrade 0.	<b>SPANISH LEAGUE:</b> Segunda División B: Group 2, Alcala 1, Madrid 1, Real Madrid 1, Real Sociedad 1, Celta Vigo 2, Compostela 1, Athletic Bilbao 1, Logroñés 0, Valladolid 1, Valencia 2, Sporting Gijón 1, Tenerife 2, Extremadura 1.	<b>GERMAN CUP:</b> Third round, Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Karlsruhe 3, VfB Stuttgart 2, Zwickau 0.	<b>ITALIAN CUP:</b> Third round: Reggina 0, AC Milan 2, Genoa 1, Vicenza 1, Cesena 1, Cremonese 2, Bologna 3, Fiorentina 1, Brescia 1, Lazio 2, Pescara 0, Napoli 1, Fiorentina 0, Juventus 0.

## Driving ambition wins place at Le Mans



Davis roars down the straight at a deserted Silverstone on his way to winning the final trial yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

### David Powell sees chequered flag of victory signal the chance of a career in motor racing for one budding British hopeful

How much of an impression has Damon Hill made on Britain's best young drivers? Not much, evidently. Six young men, not one over 20 and each with a career in motor racing in mind, had a chance yesterday to win a place at the La Filière driving school at Le Mans. Not one was a Hill admirer.

Five picked Michael Schumacher as their favourite and one went for Jacques Villeneuve. Not that any of the six was suggesting for one moment that he may eventually do as well as Hill, who displaced Schumacher this season as Formula One world champion, but Silverstone at least afforded each the opportunity to put a foot on the ladder. A unique prize awaited the best one among them.

The further they went, the higher the stake. The six had paid £1,175 each to start the week and, having qualified for

the final, out of 38 hopefuls who set out on Monday, they had to pay a further £587.50 to come back yesterday. However, all agreed that the thrill and experience of driving a Renault Campus for the first time was worth the extra, win or lose.

A course fee of £1,000 plus VAT was less than half the normal cost. The prize was a year at La Filière, worth more than £100,000. The course includes 12 months of single-seater Campus racing and 80 half-day track sessions on the Bugatti circuit. Completing the education is instruction in media relations, mechanics, financial management, contract law and fitness training. And, in case of failure to progress, academic studies.

"In terms of experience I would say it is unbeatable," Alex Blake-Milton, the corporate communications manager of Elf Oil UK, said. La Filière's is the world's only dedicated motor racing academy and is managed by Elf. Tom Davis, 17, from Bristol, emerged the winner and hopes his headteacher at Ridings High School will be sympathetic.

Davis is due to sit A levels next summer but now needs a year out from February. Unlike Hill, Davis's father was not in motor racing. Not even interested in it. "When Tom was eight he got me to go to my first grand prix, then he was tugging at my coat tails to go indoor karting," Jim Davis, Tom's father, said. "I had nobody in the family, nobody around me who was

involved." Tom admitted. Of the present drivers, he looks up to Schumacher but Ayrton Senna, who was killed in a crash, made a lasting impression. Davis was racing the day the fatal accident happened but was not tempted to withdraw. "When Senna died, it was a major downer in my life," he said. "In motor sport, you think it can happen to you — but Senna was my hero and you do not expect your heroes to die. I was racing that day but I had to shrug it off. When you put a helmet on you have to forget everything that goes on outside."

On the Schumacher/Hill debate, he said: "Schumacher is the only driver who controls the car, instead of the car controlling him. Damon Hill is British and you have got to

support him. But he is too much of a gentleman to be a racing driver."  
Of the original 38 drivers, two were women, but the final was all male. They were chosen by Jason Plato, senior instructor at Silverstone Driving School, and Paul O'Brien, director, for their speed, technical skill, consistency and learning capability. Open to anybody aged 16 to 23, some had no racing experience, although most had competed in karting.

After three days with Formula Fords and Formula Firs, the final was decided in Campus cars. They had to impress a new set of judges, who included Henri Pescarolo, four times a Le Mans winner and principal at La Filière — which has launched the careers of more than 30 Formula One drivers. "I think Great Britain colours will be on good shoulders," Pescarolo said of Davis.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

# Win a Porsche 911 Carrera

The Times and Porsche, in association with the Royal Berkshire Shooting School, offer you the chance to win a 1997 Porsche 911 Carrera worth over £60,000 by entering *The Times Porsche Challenge*.

All you have to do is score more than 23 out of 25 at clay pigeon shooting. Sounds easy? Even world champions say it isn't, but even if you have never shot clays before, there is plenty of time to learn. And with a prize like this there is everything to aim for.

The 911 Carrera is one of the most exciting cars in the world. It contains some of the most advanced automotive technology to make driving a supreme pleasure. It features either a six-speed manual or an optional four-speed Tiptronic S gearbox, with gear changes possible at the touch of a steering-wheel mounted button.

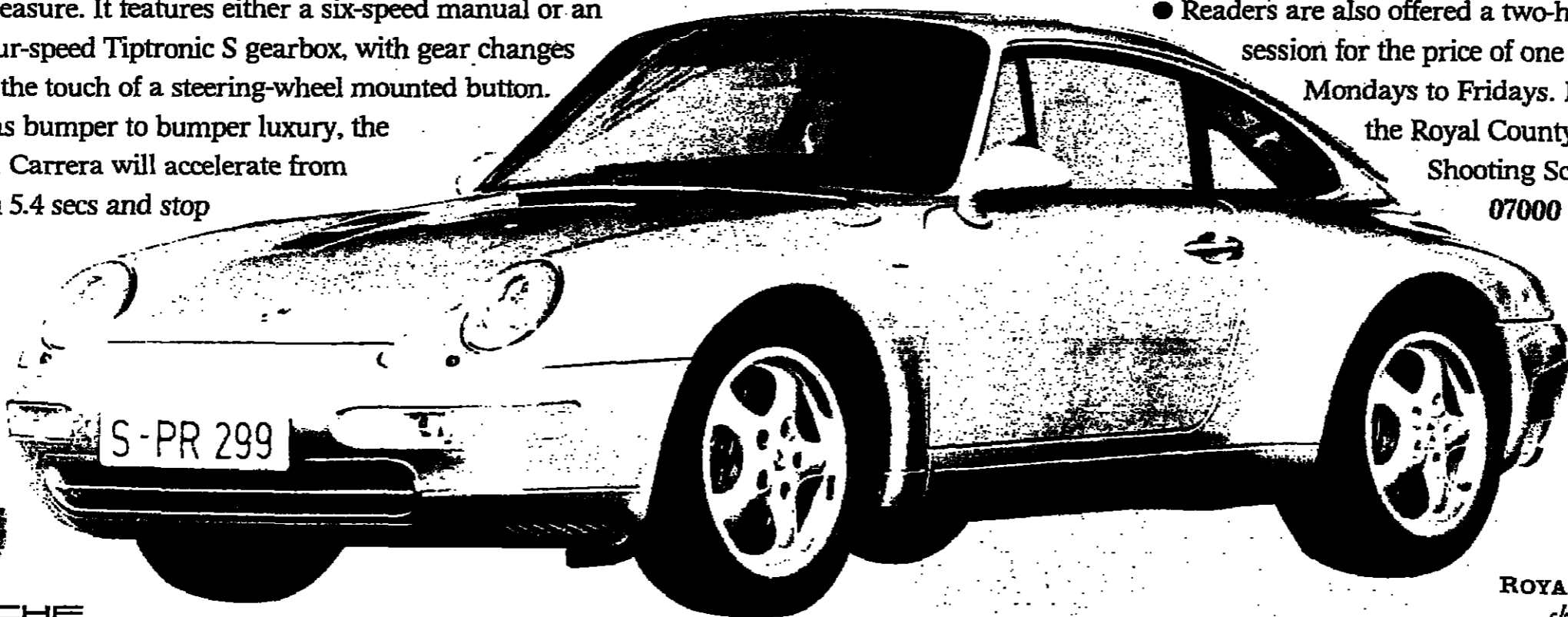
As well as bumper to bumper luxury, the Porsche 911 Carrera will accelerate from 0-62mph in 5.4 secs and stop

again in an even quicker 2.7 secs, thanks to its race-derived ABS brakes.

To enter this exciting competition, call the Royal Berkshire Shooting School on the number below to make a booking. Instructors take you out and you pay a fee of £47. For that you get 75 target clays for warm-up practice then a shooting sequence of 25 clays. The 80 highest scorers will be eligible to enter the final.

You will be given a *Times Porsche Challenge* scorecard and the first 1,000 entrants will receive a limited edition sweatshirt produced by *The Times* plus a key ring from Porsche.

- Readers are also offered a two-hour tuition session for the price of one hour on Mondays to Fridays. For details call the Royal County of Berkshire Shooting School on: 07000 410 410.



ROYAL BERKSHIRE shooting school

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Entrants must pay a fee of £40 (plus Vat). This gives them access to *The Times Tower*, shooting a sequence of 25 clays, plus 75 other targets. 2. They must shoot *The Times Tower* in the presence of an RBSS instructor. 3. Subsequent entries have a fee of £16 plus Vat to shoot *The Times Tower* only. They must be accompanied by an RBSS instructor. The instructor will record their score on a special *The Times Porsche Challenge* scorecard and in the records of the RBSS. 4. Employees of *The Times*, Porsche Cars Great Britain and shooting professionals are not eligible to enter the Challenge.

- The Challenge runs until August 31, 1997. 6. The 80 highest scorers will be eligible to enter the Final. 7. To get through to the Porsche 911 shoot-out, 80 entrants will shoot the sequence again at the Final on Tuesday, September 9, 1997. The 12 highest scorers will go through. 8. To win the Porsche 911 Carrera, the entrant must score at least 23 out of 25 clays from *The Times Tower*. If more than one person gets the same score above 22, then they will shoot-out to see who wins the Porsche. 9. The winner of the Porsche 911 Carrera must score at least 23. 10. If there is no outright winner, the highest scorer on the day wins the Porsche 911 Carrera for a three-month loan period.

- The outright winner of the Porsche, or the winner of the Porsche for a three-month period, is responsible for their own tax and insurance. 12. Where the Porsche is won for three months it must be returned in excellent condition. The winner is responsible for any costs incurred in restoring any damage. 14. RBSS instructor's decisions are final. No correspondence will be entered into. 15. There is no cash alternative to the prize. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply. 16. Entrants agree to observe the RBSS code of conduct. Full terms and conditions of the clay shoot competition are available on request from the RBSS by calling 07000 410 410.

## CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES RACING: Gosd Mar...

Old B

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

DONCAS

2.00 OCTOBER 25

2.30 EUROPEAN BREEDING FAIR STAKES

3.00 SPINAL INJURIES

YACELINE



RACING: BREEDERS' CUP WORKOUTS CONTINUE

Godsen votes for Mark Of Esteem

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT AT WOODBINE, TORONTO

Four weeks ago Mark Of Esteem was perceived as an average winner of the 2,000 Guineas. Now he is hailed as Britain's saviour: the horse who will rescue an abysmal British record at the Breeders' Cup. The handicapper has been slowly gathering momentum but the wheels caught fire yesterday when Britain's trainers reached the race track.

The Godolphin horse, a best-priced 11-10 with Coral for the Breeders' Cup Mile here tomorrow, has looked in mint condition all week. And the point was not lost on John Godsen, who believes European horses will make off with both turf contests on the seven-day card. Eloquently as ever, Godsen did not flinch when asked to assess the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes winner. "I think Mark Of Esteem could be exceptional, maybe even in Miesque's league," he said. "If he repeats the performance he produced at Ascot I don't think he'll be beaten. This track is ideal. We are also strong in the Turf, and if we can't win both races we might as well pack up and go home."

**RICHARD EVANS**  
Naps: YES MAN (4.00 Newbury)  
Next best: MYTTON'S CHOICE (2.40 Newbury)

felt four-year-olds are better suited to these races. It's tough to bring a three-year-old here as an afterthought. Shantou was heading for the Prix Royal-Oak before his late diversion. As for the French raiders, Thierry Jarnet has lost the ride aboard Swain, fourth in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Jarnet has instead been booked for Luna Wells, who finished one place behind her stablemate at Longchamp. However, Luna Wells looks a

shaded light in condition; she returned to her stable well in the advance of Swain when the pair exercised yesterday. Supporters of Spinning World can take encouragement from the manner in which she strode out under Cash Assmusen on the turf track.

Michael Stoute was on hand to orchestrate the routines of Singpiel and Pilsudski, who both breezed six furlongs, the last two at speed. "Pilsudski travelled exceptionally well and has taken his Arc exercises [in second] in his stride," Stoute said, "while Singpiel lost the same amount of weight as he did when coming here for the Canadian International." Interestingly, Jimmy Scott, Stoute's travelling head lad, said of the turf course: "They are calling it soft but it is perfect ground."



Keid drives Desert Story to victory in the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury yesterday

Carson returns to Newbury

WILLIE CARSON was in fine form at Newbury yesterday, his first day at the races since suffering life-threatening injuries at the Berkshire track five weeks ago (Richard Evans writes).

Carson, 53, piloted his own aircraft to the course and was even able to joke about the incident in which Messed lashed out in the paddock. "If she had been a person she would have got two years for GBH," he said.

Carson added: "I feel OK and things have been going well. I am still lighter than I was riding. I lost a lot of weight because I ate nothing for ten days. Accidents happen: it's part of the racing game."

SPORT 45

NEWBURY

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes 'THUNDERER' and 'GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.10 CRUX EASTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.40 FLEETLEASE ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP HURDLE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '3.10 KONE LIFTS HANDICAP CHASE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '3.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND WHEATLEY PARK MAIDEN STAKES'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '3.40 NEWBURY AUTUMN FOUR YEAR OLD HURDLE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '3.50 MICHAEL SCOTNEY (TURF ACCOUNTANT) HANDICAP HURDLE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '4.20 LITTLE SNORING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '4.40 OCEANIC HANDICAP HURDLE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '4.50 DEREK HAMILTON HANDICAP CHASE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '5.20 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '5.00 WESTWOODSIDE HANDICAP'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '3.00 SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION HANDICAP'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND FLAXTON MAIDEN STAKES'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.00 SUMMER DANCE'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.00 CLASSIC COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.00 COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.00 COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.00 COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

Old Bridge to swing outcome on reappearance

NEWBURY BBC2

2.40: The small field should suit the front-running Country Star, who has shown progressive form in France since landing a handicap hurdle with the minimum of fuss at Newton Abbot in August. He was far from disgraced behind the classy Al Capone II at Autuail a month ago and Charlie Brooks's runner will be a tough nut to crack. After two years off the racecourse with a tendon injury and being

moved to David Nicholson's yard, Mytton's Choice recorded a career-best effort when successful at Chesham 20 days ago. Always travelling well, he returned to win as he liked and could still be ahead of the handicapper. Fragarach and the quirky Oh So Risky have plenty of weight, while Seasonal Splendour is better over a longer trip.

3.10: Old Bridge regularly goes well first time out, having won twice and

been runner-up on his seasonal re-appearance during the past three years. Last season's Midway of Flete winner could be worth risking. Strong Medicine, who with Egypt Mill Prince and Easthorse likes to race prominently, is well handicapped on his form early last term but probably needs further. The small field will suit Easthorse, another who goes well fresh, but Henrietta Knight's progressive chaser may be better on right-handed tracks.

3.40: Ferdie Murphy believes Paddy's Return could develop into a Champion Hurdle contender this season. The Triumph Hurdle winner is reported fit enough for his seasonal re-appearance and is weighted to confirm Cheltenham form with Hatta Breeze and Mistingue. Alltime Dancer is the only member of the quartet to have had a run this season and race fitness could make him a danger.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Large table containing race results from Newbury, Doncaster, and Fakenham. Columns include race name, horses, jockeys, and winners.

Doncaster

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.00 SUMMER DANCE' and '2.00 CLASSIC COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

Fakenham

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.00 COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

Nottingham

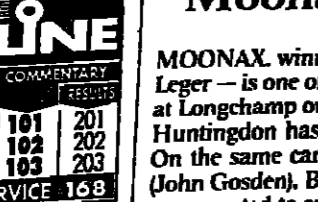
Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Horses/Jockeys. Includes '2.00 COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

Blinkered first time

DONCASTER: 2.30 Spinto, 4.30 Oh So Risky, 5.00 La Sport, FAKENHAM: 2.30 Finesse.

Moonax has French option

MOONAX, winner of the 1994 Prix Royal-Oak - the French St Leger - is one of three British acceptors for this year's renewal at Longchamp on Sunday. Pat Edbery is expected to ride. Lord Huntingdon has left in Snow Princess and Mongol Warrior. On the same card, Jeremy Glover's Croft Pool, Leap For Joy (John Gosden), Blue Iris (Michael Jarvis) Millyant (Rae Guest) are expected to contest the group three Prix du Petit Courvet.



FAVOURITE: Trainers: J. Jenkins, 9 runners from 20 runners, 23.1% A. Sayers 5 from 25, 20.0% D. Harty, 4 from 20, 20.0% M. Tompkins, 5 from 27, 18.5%.





MOTOR RACING 44

Young hopefuls fuelled by driving ambition

SPORT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25 1996

LYNNE TRUSS 46

A grey day in the company of Wolves



Shearer out of operation for six weeks



Shearer: England absentee

NEWCASTLE United and England received the news that they did not want yesterday. Alan Shearer, the world's most expensive footballer, went into hospital for an operation on his right groin...

"I spoke to Alan on Tuesday, and he told me there was every chance he would need an operation," Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said.

press officer, said. "Hopefully, that's the worst scenario, but that's what we must prepare for."

hoped to put off the operation until late in the season. "We tried to nurse him through it, but Alan knew in himself that he could not carry on any more."

Manchester United. "The club was advised that, with care, he would be able to continue playing until the end of the season."

although Peter Beardsley, the club captain, and Keegan put a brave face on it yesterday. "Don't forget, we almost won the league without Alan last season and scored goals before he came."

Injured Allenby enjoys stroke of good fortune

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT VALDERRAMA

AT 8.50 on a damp, foggy morning, as many as 200 spectators were gathered around the first tee here yesterday to watch the golfing equivalent of Scotland's footballers kicking off against Estonia.

later that he was donating the bonus money that he will receive, which could be as much as £73,000, to two charities with which he has connections.

"All the money will be split between the Teenage Cancer Trust in the United Kingdom and the Challenge Cancer Support Network for kids in Australia," Allenby said.

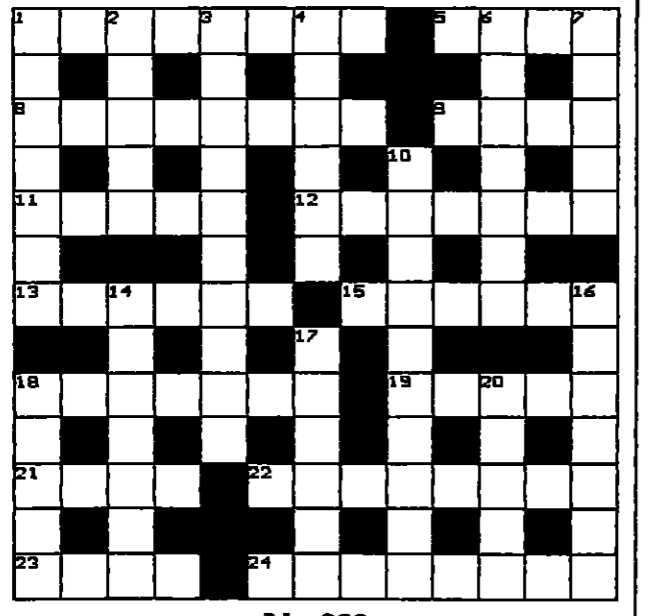


Allenby, playing with a fractured sternum, drives from the 1st tee in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama yesterday. It was to be his only shot

FIRST ROUND SCORES

- GB and Ire unless stated: 67: S Ames (Ire), 68: P Curry, G Brand, J 68: P Lawrie, C Rocca (I), J Payne, J Harrington, 70: W Westner (SA), J Lomas, D Carter, 71: I Pymur, F Nicolao (NZ), J Cooney (Arg), R Chapman, S J Johnson, G Suneson (Sp), T Blom (Den), C Montemonte, L Woodward, R Clayton, 72: D Howarth, Green (Aus), D Clarke, M McHale (Zim), R Russell, G Turner (NZ), G Orr, 73: J Sandelin (Swe), D Gilford, S Torrance, W Riley (Aus), D Frost (SA), M A Martin (Sp), M A Jimenez (Sp), A Collart, T Johnstone

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



- ACROSS: 1 Accident victim (8), 5 Food (slang); larva (4), 8 Hooked (nose) (5), 9 Male deer (4), 11 Fermented apple drink (5), 12 Adjective (7), 13 Soapy froth (6), 15 To bully; son of Priam (6), 18 Prisoner (7), 19 Symbolic egg animal (5), 21 Female relative (4), 22 Irish emblem (6), 23 Tiny amount; sounds like power (4), 24 Sea-surface organisms (8)

The solution to 921 will be published Wednesday, October 30

Harrington has a knack of attracting attention to himself, even when he is not in contention. For example, he took a 13 on the 17th hole at The Oxfordshire the week after winning in Spain. Yesterday, when most eyes were on Stephen Ames, whose 67 leads the tournament, and when Ian Woosnam broke his putter by banging it carelessly as he walked from the 5th green to the 6th tee and, thereafter, had to putt with a one-iron, Harrington played the first three holes in the eye-catching figures of 4, 3, 1. When he

Schoolboy strides into Test arena

IT LOOKS horribly as though England will be taking a sledgehammer to crack a walnut when they dispatch a full-strength cricket team to tour Zimbabwe next month. At the time the team was chosen, the selectors thought themselves pretty forward thinking in including Chris Silverwood, who is uncapped and 21, but in the past week that decision has been made to look as out-of-date as a photograph of an England team that has won the Ashes.

Simon Wilde says Pakistan have never been afraid to fast track youthful cricketing talent



Raza in action in the under-15 World Cup final

aged to play Raza because Zimbabwe are not a strong side; they would not have done the same thing had they been up against Australia, West Indies or England.

Patrick Eagar

Among others who were profligate was Ballesteros. The Europe captain lost his ball on the short 12th and took a six, as well as dropping strokes on the last two holes on his way to a 74.

Détente

What's others are fighting religious wars about Microsoft NT versus UNIX, Hewlett-Packard and MorseData are working together to integrate them.

MORSE MorseData advertisement with logo and contact information.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Manned' and other illegible text.

تكونا من الأصل

\$8m price tag on childhood home of 'Jackie O' that became Rhode Island retreat for pleasure and politics

# Kennedy Camelot for sale

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

JACQUELINE KENNEDY'S childhood home, Hammersmith Farm, is for sale. The \$8 million (£5 million) asking price for the Rhode Island retreat, which in the early 1950s was known as the "Summer White House", is way above the norm but reflects persisting fascination for all things "Jackie O".

The interior of the house has been preserved, as though in aspic. The black, rotary-dial telephones used by the Kennedys remain in place, as do the love seats used by the courting John and Jacqueline. His seals of office lie on a desk, and her dressing table effects are laid out, ready to use. Their bed has not been slept in for more than 20 years and the rugs and wall hangings retain the scent of history. The estate agent's prospectus refers to the 28-bedrooms, pebble-dashed seaside "cottage" as a "virtual time capsule".



Hammersmith Farm, known as the "Summer White House"

Hammersmith Farm was where the Kennedys held their 1953 wedding reception, when 1,300 guests gathered to celebrate the marriage of the

Kennedy clan's political clout and the social pull of old man Auchincloss, Jacqueline Bouvier's stepfather. The newlyweds posed for a memorable photograph by a farm fence.

When JFK took office it was to Hammersmith Farm that the First Couple retired in July and August, there that foreign heads of state would go to find the youthful Democrat President, surrounded by his wife and children and by the heady air of wealthy New England. The dining-room window still

slides down into the basement, as it did for Kennedy when he wanted to walk straight from his breakfast table to the helicopter waiting outside on the lawn to convey him back to the Oval Office. By the ocean shore stands the boathouse where, it is said, the young lovers spent many private hours before their marriage.

Christopher Burr, a Massachusetts estate agent who is supervising the sale, agreed yesterday that the Kennedy connection was an important

factor in the asking price, but added that Hammersmith Farm is "a very exceptional property in its own right". It has 50 acres of prime land, a west lawn that rolls down to the ocean, and views of the glistening waters of Narragansett Bay where Rhode Island's plutocrats, many of them blithely liberal, put to sea in sleek, teak yachts.

Built in 1887, the farm had a gardening staff of 35 in its heyday, and its greenhouses seem to stretch to the horizon. It has no air-conditioning, swimming pool, modern bathrooms or kitchens. In winter it is as draughty as a sieve. That is because the house has been a museum since 1978, having been bought in 1974 for \$825,000 by a consortium of businessmen who pledged to leave the place unchanged. Their decision to sell now comes after the recent success of the Jackie O auction in Manhattan, when members of the public paid thousands of dollars for small mementoes.

The house's architecture is unexceptional — little better than your average Weybridge "gin and jag" mansion. But the setting is magnificent,

making full use of a ridge and the surrounding acres.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister, visited Hammersmith Farm to discuss world affairs, while Jimmy Carter dropped by to pinch the children's cheeks and swap yarns with the President. The far-reaching Kennedy family used it as a base for play and politics. Its acres offered horseback riding, sunbathing and connections. It was one of a number of Newport summer "cottages" where the young rich would mingle and match and, without irony, discuss how to rid society of injustice.

More than 25 people have already shown a serious interest in the farm, Mr Burr said. It will be up to the new owner whether to move into the building as a private house, or continue to allow some form of public access. "There is a definite atmosphere there when you enter the house," he said. "Americans have read about this place and seen photographs of it all their lives. By osmosis they feel they know it. The Camelot years were a time that perhaps we feel we may never recover."



Jacqueline Kennedy descends the stairs at Hammersmith Farm on her wedding day

## Doll lover gives £63m to charity

AN INTENSELY private woman whose only indulgence was collecting dolls has stunned the charity world a year after her death by leaving \$98 million (£63 million) to the Crippled Children's Society and three hospitals (Giles Whittell writes).

The only clue during her lifetime to Agnes Plumb's huge wealth was an item on every list she gave a friend who did her shopping for her: Cornflakes. Ms Plumb's fortune was in an inherited holding of 1.3 million shares in the Kellogg's cereal giant.

"We're awestruck," Marilyn Graves, president of the Crippled Children's Society, said on learning of Ms Plumb's \$22.5 million bequest, the biggest in the society's 70-year history. The Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital, the Children's Research Hospital in Memphis and a Los Angeles medical school also received \$22.5 million each.

Ms Plumb never married and had a collection of 2,000 antique dolls.

## Activist dies in fireball of protest

New York: Students at the University of Pennsylvania looked on in horror as a woman set fire to herself to protest against social injustice (Quentin Letts writes).

About 50 undergraduates heading for lectures in the middle of the day saw Kathleen Chang, 46, douse her body with petrol and then set herself alight with a match.

A university security guard tried in vain to extinguish the flames with his jacket. Mrs Chang was certified dead at a hospital 25 minutes later.

Mrs Chang was a familiar figure on the campus. She was a quirky political activist who complained about the politics of the West and called for social justice.

Before her death she handed out packages including an open letter which said: "My real intention is to spark a discussion of how we can peacefully transform our world... I truly believe my death will make people more sympathetic towards me and interested in my work and ideas."



Craig Breedlove testing Spirit of America in Nevada

## Jet car races to beat land speed record

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

STREAKING across the Black Rock Desert in northern Nevada, the veteran American driver Craig Breedlove has been testing his new 48,000-horsepower jet car in preparation for a world land speed record attempt as early as tomorrow.

After engine tests on the more famous Bonneville salt flats in Utah earlier this month, Mr Breedlove, 59, moved with his entourage to Black Rock for the extra pace: at speeds of more than 600mph, he will need a straight track at least ten miles long. Because of thinning salt, the Bonneville

speedway has shrunk to just seven miles.

The current land speed record of 633 mph has not been threatened since being set in 1983 by Britain's Richard Noble, who is hoping to defend it later this year or early next with a new car, the twin-engined Thrust SSC.

Mr Breedlove's Spirit of America is powered by a single J79 engine identical to those used in Phantom jets. The same model powered him to five new records between 1963 and 1965, when he became the first driver to break the 400 mph, 500 mph and 600 mph barriers.

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# Memory of Rabin murder leaves Israelis divided

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A SOMBRE and politically divided Israel yesterday marked the first anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Prime Minister, amid reports that death threats against public figures from fellow Jews have reached record levels.

Hours before joining national leaders placing wreaths on Mr Rabin's tomb on Mount Herzl, Dan Tichon, the Knesset Speaker, spoke of a spate of threats — most from extremists opposed to the peace process — passed to the General Security Service (GSS) for investigation. He said the atmosphere in the country was worse than on the eve of Mr Rabin's murder by a fanatical religious Jew.

A senior security official said: "Never before has there built up at the GSS [the Israeli equivalent of MI5] a number of warnings so widespread and so severe, which relate to the physical harming of Israelis by Jewish elements, as in the recent period. In order to foil any such attempt, the GSS

is stretching all its limbs." Among those who have received death threats which are being treated seriously is Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, who was accused in an anonymous fax of "treason" because of his determination to press ahead with elements of the 1993 peace accord.

Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, who is hated by the far Right because of his willingness to withdraw troops from Hebron, has received extra protection, along with prominent leftwingers such as Shimon Peres, the former Labour Prime Minister, and Yossi Sarid, the leader of the pro-peace Meretz party.

Also threatened with death, as a deal over Hebron inches closer, was Yael Dayan, a Labour deputy and daughter of Moshe Dayan, the late war hero. She suffered second-degree burns this week when a supporter of right-wing Jewish settlers in Hebron threw scalding tea over her.

"The shocking attack on

Yael Dayan shows how dimly the country has failed to learn the lessons of Rabin's murder," *The Jerusalem Post* said yesterday.

Such divisions dogged many of the emotional ceremonies, services and marches to commemorate the first anniversary of Rabin's November 4 assassination according to the Hebrew calendar.

"The murder did not succeed in creating a common experience for all the public," said the daily *Haaretz*. "On the contrary, each side became more fortified in its position."

Left and Right even wrangled over how the murder should be marked. Yesterday the High Court ruled against a petition to make the anniversary a memorial day after right-wing MPs overruled a Labour initiative in the Knesset.

Earlier Mr Netanyahu's right-wing Government declined a request from the still grieving Rabin family for a day of mourning. In response,



An Orthodox Jew passes posters of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli leader, near Jaffa gate leading to old Jerusalem yesterday

the family, which has held Mr Netanyahu partly responsible for the political tension leading up to the murder, requested that the Prime Minister should not speak at yesterday's graveside ceremony at

tended by 1,000 guests. Leah Rabin, the widow, hid her emotions behind dark glasses as Mr Netanyahu placed his wreath beside the eternal flame burning at the grave, but close friends said that she

has lost none of her antipathy for the Prime Minister. "One cannot ignore, one cannot forget, that many of the right-wing leaders participated [in anti-Rabin demonstrations] and that is a reality we have to

live with," said her son. Yuval Rabin, 41. Youth groups on both sides of the political spectrum bickered over the lyrics of a peace song due to be sung at a Defence Ministry memorial

ceremony on Sunday. Even new bumper stickers with the Hebrew words "Chaver, ata haser" — meaning "You are missed, friend" — are divisive, being seen as criticism of Mr Netanyahu.

## Talks by military chiefs aim to ease tension in Cyprus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

COMMANDERS of the rival Greek Cypriot National Guard and the Turkish Army in Cyprus have begun unprecedented proximity talks aimed at reducing tension on the divided island. United Nations officials said yesterday.

Success ahead of a proposed visit here in December by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, could boost a determined British effort to reunite Cyprus.

The talks come after one of the worst periods of violence since Cyprus was split 22 years ago. The deaths since June of four Greek Cypriots and one Turkish Cypriot along the island-wide buffer zone deepened the bitterness and led to fears of a wider conflict between Nato's feuding members, Greece and Turkey.

United Nations mediators are conducting the talks indirectly and have made three specific proposals. They want a ban on soldiers carrying loaded weapons along the buffer zone, a pullback from the most volatile areas of the 110-mile dividing line and a code of conduct that outlaws

the use of force except in self defence. If these proximity talks succeed — and analysts were optimistic they would — it could really help progress towards a broader settlement by building trust between the two communities. Gustave Feissel, the UN's most senior representative in Nicosia, said.

The talks represent a modest but significant breakthrough. Madeleine Albright, America's Ambassador to the UN, believed she had persuaded the rival military commanders to hold direct talks when she was here in July, before the worst of the recent violence. But the meeting was blocked by wrangling over protocol.

Britain, as a guarantor power and former colonial master that still has bases there, will demonstrate its commitment when Mr Rifkind arrives. He will be accompanied by Sir David Hannay, a former UN ambassador who was recalled from retirement to become London's first special representative to Cyprus.

Sir David Hannay, page 20

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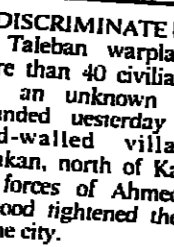
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مكتبة من الأصل

# Islamic warriors strike back as general's forces move heavy weapons closer to Kabul

## Taleban bomb raid kills 40 civilians

Kabul's besiegers are hoping for an uprising in the capital, reports Michael Dynes in Bagram



INDISCRIMINATE bombing by Taleban warplanes left more than 40 civilians dead and an unknown number wounded yesterday in the mud-walled village of Kalakan, north of Kabul, as the forces of Ahmed Shah Masood tightened their grip on the city.

The sound of anti-aircraft fire from the nearby towns of Charikar and Jabal-os-Siraj, reverberated around the Hindu Kush mountains, as women and children ran screaming from their bombed-out houses a few miles from the front line.

One of the Taleban bombs destroyed the house of Shir Hakim, 25, killing his wife and four of his children. About a dozen of his neighbours were digging frantically in search of his son, buried alive under the rubble.

Overcome with grief, Mr Hakim cried: "Taleban are criminal people. They are taking their orders from Pakistan. What can I do now? I will have to put up a tent in the desert. There is no place for me to stay."

As the injured were ferried to hospital, another Taleban bomb fell near mourners burying their dead. Tanks, multiple-barrelled missile launchers and troops on old buses rumbled through the village on their way to reinforce General Masood's positions in the mountains overlooking the city.

Later, during a military briefing at Bagram airbase, 40 miles north of Kabul, Abdul Nasser Zia, a fighter in General Masood's 40th Division, said he did not think Taleban could hold on to the capital much longer.

"We are very close to Kabul", he said. "Our heavy weapons are in place, and we could bombard the city at any time. But we have decided to join the revolt of the people."



Women and their children flee the village of Kalakan, north of Kabul, after bombs dropped by Taleban planes left a death toll of 40 yesterday

We do not want to spill blood in the city like Taleban."

Fear of heavy civilian casualties has inhibited General Masood from launching a full-scale frontal assault on Kabul. He now appears to be smuggling arms to the city in a bid to foment a popular uprising against Taleban.

General Masood's sweep south from the Panjshir Valley to the gates of Kabul had been assisted by a series of revolts in towns and villages all the way from the Salang highway to Bagram. These have been provoked by the extent of Taleban brutality.

UN sources estimate that more than 2,000 members of the Taleban militia had been killed since Kabul fell to the black-bearded Fashun militants in September. General Masood's forces now hold more than 700 Taleban militia prisoners. An unknown number were also shot by villagers in retaliation for the murder of relatives.

Local commanders claim that General Masood has 10,000 fighters laying siege to

the city on two fronts. One is in the northeast, about ten miles from the centre of Kabul, while the other group is closing in from the north.

Burnt-out metal carcasses of Taleban militia tanks and troop carriers litter the road between Salang and Bagram in the wake of heavy fighting as General Masood's Tajik Mujahidin pushed the Taleban back from their Panjshir Valley stronghold.

The forces of Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern Uzbek warlord, who founded his

alliance with General Masood in the town of Khenjan last week, now have complete control of the Salang Tunnel. General Dostum's command forces claim to have 5,000 troops stationed behind General Masood's forces with a further 9,000 in reserve.

General Dostum's Jumbesh soldiers are headquartered in Charikar, and are clearly engaged in close and extensive co-operation with General Masood. General Dostum's soldiers are under orders not to show themselves at the front line, but they clearly have a substantial presence at Bagram airbase.

□ Kabul: Taleban militia fighters said yesterday that the front line had not moved for the third day running, despite a series of attacks on Wednesday by General Masood. They said the fighting would go on, confirming the opinion of Afghan watchers in Kabul who said ceasefire talks appeared near to collapse, making a new push on the city by anti-Taleban forces increasingly likely. (Reuters)

## Ban on women lifted to allow orphans touch of human kindness

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

KABUL orphanage has eight days' food left, there is no heating oil as night temperatures nudge freezing point and the tiny clinic possesses not so much as a headache pill. But there is one piece of good news from this sorry institution: Taleban has compromised its principles and allowed four women to tend the youngest children.

It is a modest and inadequate gesture, but it has enabled babies to be washed and held. Until this concession they were all but ignored, given the cultural impossibility of men nursing or bathing a child. The change came after a visit by a Taleban mullah who promised to look into the orphanage's many problems.

Abu Musim Mokhtar, the administrator, has a list of grievances: he has received no money since Taleban invaded on September 27; he needs plastic sheeting to cover windows without glass, winter clothing for the children and oil for the boilers, he would like to give the children some meat; he needs cooking fuel. It goes on.

The last meat the children ate

was camel, the cheapest available, and that was five months ago. Funding was always erratic and now is non-existent. This week the United Nations Children's Fund saved the orphanage from catastrophe with a delivery of wheat, pulse, vegetable oil and sugar.

"We are grateful for this, but it is not enough," Mr Mokhtar said. "The children can survive on it, there will be no starvation, but they need money because there are no banks in Afghanistan any more. Nobody seems to care about us."

Water is being heated by wood

fires, enabling each child to have one hot shower a week. Children aged ten and over have started doing the laundry to save on outside washing. It costs 9,500 afghanis (30p) a day to feed each child, but there is no money left. The staff have not been paid for weeks. "We have faith that we will receive more food soon," Mr Mokhtar said.

The population of the institution has plunged from 800 to 660 in the past ten days because many children are being taken away by guardians fleeing Kabul for fear of a counter-attack by the forces of the

former Government. This has taken some pressure off resources but the situation remains critical.

Three years ago the orphanage had a proper building — the present one is a half-built military barracks, which explains the missing windows — but the children had to be moved out because it was in the line of fire during an earlier power battle in Kabul. Nothing is sacred in Afghanistan's civil war.

The emotional problems of many of the children are clearly evident, but there are no psychiatric facilities in Kabul. "Many scream out or crawl under the bed if they hear a

distant rifle shot," Mr Mokhtar said. "They are traumatised."

There is a clinic with 17 beds, but no instruments, no medicines, no doctors. The four overworked women do most of the nursing. A doctor, his fee paid by a German charity, visits three days a week. There used to be a resident dentist but, as a woman, she cannot work any more.

Two days ago a Taleban mullah toured the orphanage to see what was going on and asked to see the pharmacy. He was escorted to a room with bare shelves. He promised to do something about that.

Lyons: French police launched a manhunt after finding gory photos of an apparent mass murder in an abandoned car. Tracing the car's teenage owner, they mounted an armed raid on a family home here. The bewildered 15-year-old explained he had taken the snaps during a school trip to the chamber of horrors at Madame Tussaud's. (AFP)

### Hunt for killer waxes and wanes

Lyons: French police launched a manhunt after finding gory photos of an apparent mass murder in an abandoned car. Tracing the car's teenage owner, they mounted an armed raid on a family home here. The bewildered 15-year-old explained he had taken the snaps during a school trip to the chamber of horrors at Madame Tussaud's. (AFP)

### Tokyo cult guru 'in padded cell'

Tokyo: The doomsday cult leader on trial for the Tokyo subway gas attack was taken to a padded cell last week after shouting and beating on the doors of his regular cell, according to media reports. Shoko Asahara flew into a rage after a court session last Friday in which he first said he took full responsibility for the attack by his Aum Shinrikyo cult and then declared his innocence. (Reuters)

### Turkish attacks claim 41 Kurds

Diyarbakir, Turkey: Turkish troops killed 41 Kurdish rebels in a pre-winter offensive, regional officials said. Clashes with the guerrillas took place in five eastern and southeastern provinces, the regional governor's office said. It is not known when the attacks occurred, but the rebels have been fighting for autonomy in the southeast since 1984. More than 21,000 people have died. (AP)

### Corsicans held over Juppé blast

Paris: Twelve Corsican suspects were arrested yesterday in connection with the bombing on October 5 of the mayoral offices in Bordeaux of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister (Ben Macintyre writes). Jean-Louis Bruguière, the anti-terrorism judge, authorised raids involving police units from Bordeaux, Marseilles and Paris. Judicial sources said the suspects are all linked to the "historic wing" of the banned Corsican National Liberation Front.

### WORLD SUMMARY

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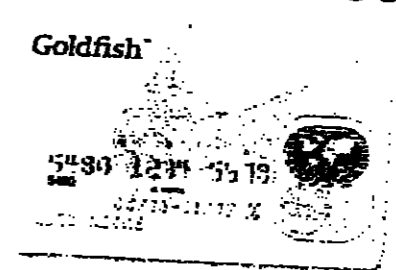
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# Pope places some faith in Darwin's theory of evolution

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope risked the wrath of the religious Right yesterday by declaring that Darwin's theory of evolution was compatible with Christian faith. In a message to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, which advises the Vatican on scientific matters, the Pope said the theory of natural selection was "more than just a hypothesis".

to remove any notion of God from people's minds".

The Pope, who appears fully recovered from his appendix operation two weeks ago, was responding to requests for clarification from the 80-member Academy, which is holding its 60th anniversary meeting on "Evolution and The Origins of Life".

Pope John Paul II went further than Pius XII yesterday, saying: "It is noteworthy that the theory of evolution has progressively taken root in the minds of researchers following a series of discoveries in different disciplines."

Darwin's theories, as formulated in *Origin of Species* by *Natural Selection* and *The Descent of Man* led to bitter controversy in the late 19th century, with leading churchmen denouncing them as incompatible with the account given in Genesis.

He added: "The convergence, neither sought nor provoked, of results of studies undertaken independently from each other in itself constitutes a significant argument in favour of the theory [of evolution]."

The Pope appeared to side-



Darwin: evolution has become "compatible"

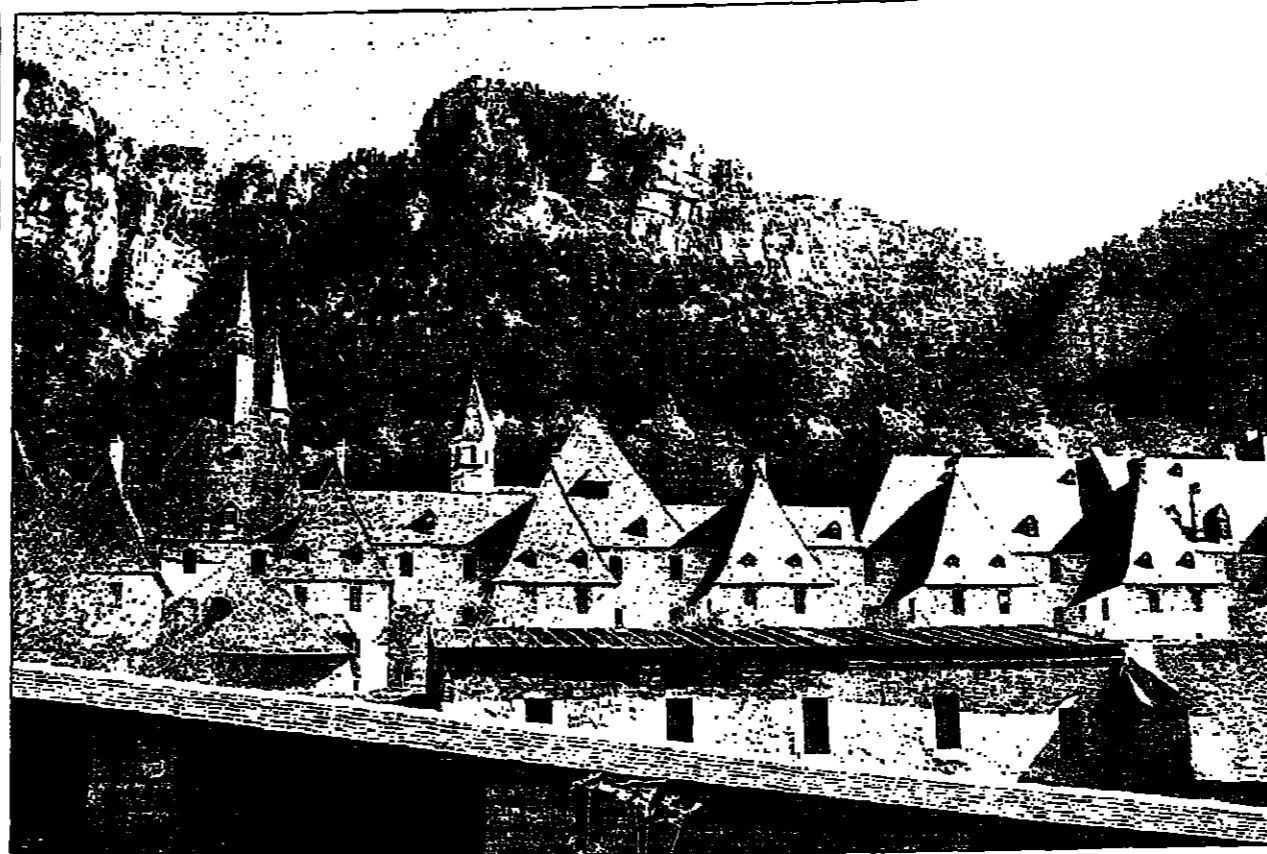
step the vexed theological question of whether, if the theory of evolution from apes and *Australopithecus afarensis* through Neanderthal man to *Homo sapiens* is correct, creatures before modern man had souls.

But he said that, whatever man's origins, his soul was a divine creation, declaring: "If the human body has its origin in pre-existing living matter, the spiritual soul is immediately created by God." No theory was acceptable which held that the spirit emerged from "the forces of living material".

Margherita Hack, a leading Italian astronomer, said the pronouncement was an important step "because for the first time the Church is accepting evolution as a proven fact".

Francesco Barone, a scientific philosopher, told *Il Messaggero* that, after Galileo's rehabilitation, acceptance of evolutionary theory was the latest in a series of steps which were "mending the tears" in the Church's relationship with science.

Opposition to Darwinism remains staunch in the American Bible Belt.



The monastery of Grande Chartreuse, where the recipe for the "vegetable elixir" has been guarded since 1605

# Juppé tax stirs trouble for monks

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government's austerity drive has run into an unexpectedly sticky problem involving the monks of Chartreuse, whose profits from the famous green liqueur will be affected by plans to raise taxes on spirits.

In his 1997 budget Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, proposes to increase the tax payable on all spirits by 17.1 per cent, with the result that the monks of La Grande Chartreuse, who as Catholics have observed a vow of poverty for 900 years, are likely to become dramatically poorer next year.

"If MPs vote through this tax rise, it is going to have a major effect on the dues we pay to the monks," Jean-Marc Roget, president of Chartreuse Diffusion, the company licensed to sell the drink,

said this week. The Government claims that raising taxes on spirits will help to fight alcoholism, but M Roget pointed out that Chartreuse, a sophisticated and expensive tippie, is hardly the first choice of dipsomaniacs: in Britain a half-litre bottle costs £20.

Chartreuse, which comes in both green and yellow versions, is made from a mixture of 130 medicinal plants and herbs and dates back to 1605 when the Marquis d'Estree presented the original recipe for this potent "vegetable elixir" to the monastic order.

The secret of what goes into Chartreuse has been jealously guarded by the monks ever since in their vast monastery, La Grande Chartreuse, near Grenoble. The monastery was founded in 1084, and the order

has outposts in 22 other sites, including Italy, Spain and Parkminster in East Sussex.

One million bottles of Chartreuse are sold every year and, with an annual turnover of Fr38 million (£5 million), profits from the sale of the liqueur provide the financial mainstay of the order.

M Juppé's popularity has sunk to near-record lows, according to the latest polls, and a survey by *Paris Match* published yesterday showed that less than one in five voters is happy with the way France is being run. But M Juppé surrounded by the clamour of opposition, is unlikely to receive any vocal criticism from the makers of France's celebrated green liqueur.

The monks of La Grande Chartreuse are a silent order.



Chartreuse liqueur: a very expensive tippie

# Italy out of tune with operatic repertoire

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE MYTH that Italy is a nation of opera cognoscenti was punctured yesterday by an opinion poll showing that more than half of the Italians questioned thought Verdi's *Aida* was composed by Beethoven. Conversely, a similar percentage thought that Bizet's *Carmen* was by Verdi.

The poll, carried out by a record company and published in *Corriere della Sera*, was based on a sample of 1,500 people, aged between 18 and 65. "It goes to show that we Italians are not as much of a musical nation as we thought," the newspaper said.

Asked who composed *Aida*, 52 per cent said Beethoven, 31 per cent Verdi and 8 per cent guessed Rossini. For *La Traviata*, 48 per cent correctly named Verdi, but 38 per cent said Rossini and 11 per cent Bellini. Fifty-four per cent thought Verdi, rather than Bizet, wrote *Carmen*, and 35 per cent had no idea who wrote it.

There was more success with *The Barber of Seville*, which 59 per cent rightly identified as the work of Rossini, although 29 per cent attributed it to Mozart and 12 per cent to Verdi. Twenty-six per cent of respondents thought *Swan Lake* was composed by Mozart, rather than Tchaikovsky.

"The ignorance of Verdi is particularly alarming given his role in the formation of our nation," a music critic said. Verdi was not only a composer of genius, but also a passionate supporter of Italian unity during the Risorgimento.

Nearly all those questioned claimed that they listened to music for at least an hour a day, but the music in question appeared largely to consist of Italian pop music. Asked who best represented Italian music abroad, 19 per cent opted for Luciano Pavarotti, the celebrated tenor, and some suggested the conductors, Riccardo Muti and Claudio Abbado. But most offered the names of Italian pop stars such as Zucchero and Enzo Ramazzotti.

Nearly all those questioned said their favourite foreign singer was Frank Sinatra and the poll revealed that most Italians are familiar with cinema soundtracks, including the music for *Pulp Fiction*, *The Bodyguard* and *Il Postino*. Most also have some knowledge of church music. But almost none of those questioned knew that *Ave Maria*, obligatory at every Italian wedding, was by Schubert.

The poll attempted to salvage something of Italy's musical reputation by revealing that a majority of Italians sing in the shower, the most popular shower-time hit being Domenico Modugno's *Volare*.

# Poland liberalises abortion law

Warsaw: The Left-dominated Polish parliament voted yesterday to liberalise the toughest anti-abortion law in Europe by allowing women to have terminations if they face difficult financial or personal conditions (Patricia Koza writes).

The Sejm, or lower house,

passed the amendment 228-195, with 16 abstentions, despite strong lobbying by the Roman Catholic Church and a warning by the Polish-born Pope in a recent Sunday address from Rome that a nation which permits abortions is "a nation without a future".

President Kwasniewski, who made liberalisation of the 1993 law a campaign pledge last year in the presidential elections, has promised to sign the Bill. The measure permits women to have abortions up to the 12th week of pregnancy, following consultation with another doctor.

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## Magnet

Food for thought

# Britain joins protest over Burma arrest

FROM REUTER IN RANGOON

BRITAIN last night joined growing international protests over the seizure by Burma's ruling junta of a top official in Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain was deeply concerned about the detention of Kyi Maung, 75, deputy chairman of Daw Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

He was arrested on Wednesday for his involvement in a student protest this week, according to a senior Burmese government official. However, America and Amnesty International called for his immediate release. Washington urged

the military authorities to start a dialogue with the Opposition on the country's future.

"That's a very disturbing scene to see a peaceful student demonstration turned into a situation where arrests are made [and] people are held without any kind of charge against them," Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman said. "This reflects the brutality of the Burmese Government."

Amnesty, the London-based human rights organisation, said Mr Kyi had done nothing more than call for peaceful political change. "His arrest is an outrage and he should be released immediately," it said.



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# Russia agrees to share Black Sea fleet with Ukraine

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

Russia and Ukraine announced yesterday that they had resolved how to divide the Black Sea Fleet, a question which has cast a shadow over relations between the two countries since the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Speaking after a meeting outside Moscow with President Yeltsin, Leonid Kuchma, the visiting Ukrainian President, said that a formal agreement would be signed in Kiev by November 15 to put the two nations' differences behind them.

"The Presidents reached agreement on all questions," Sergei Yastrzhembskiy, a presidential spokesman, said. "Before the middle of November it is expected that Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, will visit Kiev, at which time a number of agreements will be signed on splitting up the fleet, where it will be based, and so on."

If true, the announcement would mark a significant breakthrough, although many observers remained sceptical, noting that the two sides have tried and failed in the past to resolve the issue. Notably, President Yeltsin has postponed six scheduled visits to Kiev over the past 20 months



Ukraine. Only hours before President Kuchma arrived in Moscow, the Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, passed a unanimous motion claiming sovereignty over Sevastopol, a city founded by Catherine the Great and which has a majority Russian population.

"Sevastopol was, is and will be the main naval base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. Unilateral moves by Ukraine to divide it will lead not just to the destruction of the Black Sea Fleet — and the Duma believes the division of the fleet must be stopped," the motion read.

The Duma's claim to Sevastopol was supported by a 1948 Soviet decree which placed the city under Moscow's direct rule. The issue has been clouded by the politically charged atmosphere in Moscow ahead of President Yeltsin's heart transplant operation next month, which has seen potential Russian presidential candidates jockeying for position.

General Aleksandr Lebed, the dismissed former security adviser, has spoken out against any concessions to Kiev, a point made even more forcefully by Yuri Luzhkov, the powerful Mayor of Moscow, regarded as another presidential hopeful.



Steel workers protest at the Thyssen steel mill in Duisburg over sick pay cuts

# Strikes threaten Kohl's efforts to curb spending

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN DUSSELDORF

THOUSANDS of workers in Germany's vital metal and engineering industries yesterday took to the streets at the start of a strike campaign by the powerful metalworkers' union in protest at the refusal by employers to guarantee full sick pay benefits in future.

The strike, which threatens to affect the brittle pay negotiations across the country as Germany tries to rein in its public spending, was particularly marked in the main industrial areas and car-manufacturing plants in the west. In North Rhine-Westphalia, workers went on strike in factories in Duisburg, Bochum and Dortmund, where blast furnaces were running on emergency levels.

In the prosperous southwest, in Baden-Württemberg, car workers stopped work at the main Daimler-Benz factory and about 3,000 demonstrated outside the gates at the Bosch factory. Volkswagen-Audi plants were also hit. The strikes broke out after two days of intensive negotiations between IG Metall, the powerful union that counts some 3.5 million workers among its members, and the engineering employers.

At issue is the controversial new law allowing employers to pay only 80 per cent of a worker's normal salary if he falls sick. Some of the main engineering employers, including most of the car manufacturers, have said that they are willing to continue full sick payments. But smaller firms, hard-pressed by worsening economic conditions, are not able to do so. The system of negotiating unified regional salary levels is now under threat.

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, has appealed to both sides to negotiate. The failure to agree over sick pay this year also throws into question talks on possible cuts in other non-wage labour costs which employers say are essential if Germany's vital car industries are to remain competitive.

The situation is particularly acute because Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats are courting unpopularity and risk an open split with their Free Democrat junior partners over reluctance to cut taxes. Herr Kohl has agreed to bring the rates down, but faces an uphill task to meet the convergence criteria.

Madrid: Hundreds of hearse-brought chaos to the Spanish capital yesterday as undertakers gathered to protest against the Government's "over-regulation of the funeral sector" (Tunku Varadarajan writes). A conveyance driven at a funeral pace from the Atlético de Madrid stadium to the Economy Ministry.

# Naples slips up on new 'soap'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S first home-grown soap opera is drawing bricks from the critics after only a week, to the dismay of those who hope it will presage a revival of Italian television.

The series, called *Un Posto Al Sole* (A Place in the Sun), is set against the spicy and picturesque backdrop of life in Naples. On the face of it, it has all the right ingredients. "It is a story of passion, intrigue and betrayal," *Oggi* magazine enthused. Giovanni Minoli, the Naples-based producer, said: "It's a miracle. I can't believe it — Naples on prime-time TV every night"

But audience figures (except in Naples) have so far been disappointing. "It is not so much a case of see Naples and die, more a case of see Naples and change channels," *La Repubblica* commented.

Italy has no native tradition of television soaps, even though (or perhaps because) Italian daily life tends to be vivacious, noisy and melodramatic. Dubbed American and Australian soaps are broadcast in the afternoons. The state-run RAI channels have increasingly gone down market in an attempt to compete with the private channels owned by Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister.

A Place in the Sun is made with help from the Australian production company which makes *Neighbours*. It revolves around the conflict between a family of noble origin, the Palladini, and their working-class neighbours. "At least it gets away from the Naples stereotype of pizzas and mandolins," *Il Messaggero* said.

Critics and viewers have — so far — given the thumbs down to the wooden acting, awkward pauses and sudden desperate insertions of dramatic music, not to mention the telltale clunk of the actors' feet on stage sets.

Signor Minoli says 40 of the planned 230 episodes are in the can, and it will take "three months, not a week, to judge if it is a success or not".

# Yeltsin daughter under fire from old guard

BY RICHARD BEESTON

Russia's growing ranks of disaffected and embittered politicians are increasingly directing their criticism against Tatyana Dyachenko, President Yeltsin's daughter, now regarded as the most influential adviser in his entourage.

Mrs Dyachenko, 36, has been drawn into politics by allegations that she controls the day-to-day running of the President's affairs at the sanatorium where he is resting before next month's heart bypass operation.

The latest attack on her role in the affairs of state came from General Aleksandr Lebed, the sacked former national security chief, who suggested yesterday that she was now the only person the ailing Russian leader trusts.

"Of course he is easily influenced. The very clever scenario put in action by his daughter is: trust only through me," General Lebed told the weekly *Argumyenti i Fakty* newspaper.

He claimed that Mrs Dyachenko's unseen influence had made dealings with the Kremlin leader bizarre and unpredictable. "While you are talking to the President he is listening and arguing with you. After you leave, anything could happen. [You can only find out by] watching the television."

The increasingly personal attacks against Mrs Dyachenko are directed by former aides who were ousted by President Yeltsin after his reelection this summer. Mrs Dyachenko, his youngest daughter, played a pivotal role in organising his campaign and promoted a new team of pro-democratic figures in the leadership.

Nikolai Yegorov, the former presidential Chief of Staff who was sacked along with other hardliners in the Kremlin, blamed his successor, Anatoli Chubais, for taking advantage of the President's daughter in his rise to power. "Perhaps she

has brains, but she is only a daughter and not an experienced politician... for this reason she can be easily manipulated," he told *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. "Chubais and his colleagues needed somebody close through who they could exert influence on the President, and she was the best candidate. They kept telling her: 'You see, it would be good if daddy... And she would get the problem solved.'"

Although the Moscow State University graduate is well placed to defend herself, she prefers to keep a low public profile and is vulnerable to dirty tactics. Earlier this month, for instance, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* published a front-page story disclosing that President Yeltsin's grandson, Boris, who is currently at Millfield School in England, is in fact her son by a secret first marriage. The Yeltsin family had attempted to keep the matter private.

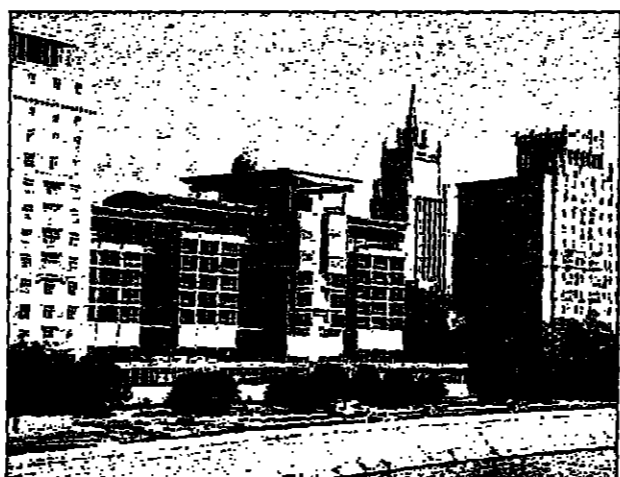
# Go-ahead for Moscow embassy

BY RICHARD BEESTON AND PETER FOSTER

AFTER years of tortuous negotiations with the Russians, work is expected to begin next month on the construction of a new multi-million-pound British Embassy in Moscow.

Taylor Woodrow announced yesterday that it had been awarded the £55 million contract for the site on the east bank of the Moskva river. The structure will consist of four interconnected blocks, three for accommodating embassy staff and the fourth for the embassy's offices.

After the disastrous experience of the Americans, whose new embassy has never been used because Russian builders impregnated the building with so many listening devices, security has been a major factor in the British project. An embassy spokesman said that the site would be under British control throughout the 22-year construction period and that only British workmen and materials would be used.



An artist's impression of the new British mission

The new building is desperately needed in Moscow, where embassy staff are currently in the distinguished but cramped surroundings of the Kharitonenko Mansion, a

19th-century sugar merchant's home located on the river directly opposite the Kremlin. The British mission has expanded quickly since the end of the Cold War, particularly the consular section, which today issues more visas than any other post in the world.

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# 'I just wish that lager made boys more ill'

**S**upposing we corralled all young males between the ages of 11 and 22," I suggested to the chairman of the Magistrates' Association. "What effect would that have on your life as a magistrate?" Mrs Rosemary Thomson, JP, agreed that it would indeed leave her with very little to do.

Mrs Thomson kept onto the airwaves this week in the wake of Frances Lawrence's manifesto for mending our fractured society. Mrs Lawrence said: "The root of the problem is that the people who commit these crimes come from dysfunctional families." "I'm afraid that is true," said Mrs Thomson.

I sat in her courtroom at Maidenhead, observing the young men (all but two defendants were males under 24) who fracture our society. At what age can you tell who will become an offender? "At four or five," said Mrs Thomson, a former teacher and school governor. "I can see who is likely to offend persistently."

"Characteristically, they are hyperactive, with a short attention span, have difficulty relating to other children and adults, are desperate for affection and get attention through misbehaving." Never had she picked out a potential offender in school who did not later appear before her in court.

"And sometimes I have seen his father before him, and even his grandfather. Something goes wrong at a very early age."

England's leading magistrate on the dysfunctional families that are filling our courts with hopeless young male criminals — and the dangers of drink

stage smirk: he and his accomplice also elected trial by jury (thinking their chances of acquittal were better) and left the courtroom muttering "Bolllocks".

Then there were the redeemable ones: a sad boy (whose blind father, with guide dog, was in court) who had reeled out of a pub and harmlessly peed against a bollard. "A very silly thing to have done," said Mrs Thomson, fining him £40. And an inebriated and dim burglar of 18, caught with a radio bulging under his jacket. We heard all about his separated parents, the family quarrels, their poverty, his drugs problem since the age of 13, his leaving school without qualifications, "intellectually and emotionally ill-equipped to deal with life".

They could have sent him to prison, Mrs Thomson told him. Instead, he would be placed on probation for 12 months and given 40 hours' community service. The £240 fine would be taken from his wage packet. "We have given you a chance here, do you understand that? You've done quite well. You've got yourself sorted. Now get it together."

She turned to the father, in his building-site clothes, and thanked him for coming. (Not many working-class fathers come to court.)

"The family" has become a political bandwagon — but a family (as Messrs Blair and Major should say when asked) means whoever lives behind the front door from which a young hooligan might emerge. One parent or two parents; what matters is who's in charge of the rattling train, the loose cannon, the out-of-control and lethal agent that is the teenage boy. My outrageous suggestion of corraling young males is not so very far from Jack Straw's "youth curfew". Conditional bail, requiring them to stay at home, was given to several youths at Maidenhead on Wednesday. But the stable

door is being bolted too late. "You sound like Shakespeare in *The Winter's Tale*," she said. "I would there were no age between sixteen and three-and-twenty — for there is nothing in the between but getting wenches with child, wronging the ancientry, stealing, fighting. It's not a new problem."

"If I could have a wish, it would be that young men became desperately sick, thor-

### THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



oughly ill after two pints of lager, and couldn't drink any more. The number of cases I deal with would go down very substantially. A vast amount of petty offending, as you saw this morning, is drink-related."

True: only a couple of cases had no alcohol connection. One was a Welsh schoolmaster speeding down the M4 at 104mph to get to his daughter's graduation in Brighton, a first blemish on a 30-year impeccable driving record. Another was a young student in possession of cannabis.

"Whenever I address young people they ask me if I think cannabis should be legalised and I reply: 'That is for others to decide.' But taking cannabis does not lead to offending behaviour and violence, in the way drinking does."

Over lunch of sandwiches and mineral water, Mrs Thomson, the daughter of a railway clerk, told me: "My family was very Scottish and

very Presbyterian. Dedicated to the work ethic, duty and service. All those terribly old-fashioned things." She had won a state scholarship from Watford Grammar School to read modern languages at Girton College, Cambridge, where she took a first.

Her father came from Scotland to work at Euston, hence their settling at the end of the line at Watford. "And there we were in Watford, thinking our Scottish thoughts, eating our Scottish food, practising our Scottish religion and mixing only minimally with those who were not Scottish. It makes you understand the Asian community, happy with their own values."

As a young mother she taught for the Open University, but chiefly opted for "duty and service" voluntary activities — running a playgroup, becoming a school governor. When Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone decreed in 1971 that the bench needed young women JPs, Mrs Thomson was approached — while shopping in Smith's — along with Shirella (Baroness) Flather, the first Asian woman peer. Mrs Thomson learnt on the job. Now almost half of the 30,000 magistrates in England and Wales, selectively interviewed and trained, are women.

On the Board of Visitors at Feltham Young Offenders' Institution Mrs Thomson gained an insight into the lives of the young men who cause such a disproportionate amount of the nation's crime.

"In Feltham, it was a miracle to meet a boy who had a father and mother in more or less working order. Most of them were doomed from conception. And they themselves, even at 17, heavily convicted, would often say: 'Want to see a picture of my baby, missis?'"

"So they start off as inadequate parents themselves, coming from inadequate parents, not having gone to school very much, not having a clue how to bring up a child. Feltham did try to teach them

something about babies and cooking, but many of them had been brought up in care."

The bulk of magistrates' work is with young men. "And most victims are young men, too. Most of them stop offending as they mature and form adult relationships with a good woman." Half the male population now has a record by the age of 30. Even Mrs Thomson's own grown-up son, now 28, had been convicted of careless driving while an undergraduate.

When Mrs Thomson spoke on *Today* this week she welcomed Jack Straw's acknowledgement that youth courts must look at young offenders in the context of their families.

**Y**ou can't take a child out of its family context, Mr. Howard's idea of involving parents of offenders in making reparations to the victims, to bring home that they are responsible for their child, is worth considering. Whereas his 'naming and shaming' idea just reinforces the problem: if a child whose kudos rests on his offending behaviour is named on the telly it gives him the admiration of his friends.

"One lad this morning, to my horror, had been cautioned twice, once after seven burglaries and once for four thefts of cars. Frankly, he should have been in court before now."

"But really the court comes into the whole process far too late. Our youth court magistrates feel passionately that we can do little more than mop up. Young men have got thoroughly into offending before the court ever gets at them." As Nigel de Gruchy, of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said yesterday of The Ridings School: "Many children arrive at primary school intent on troublemaking."

Crime prevention initiatives are surely futile without some attempt being made to identify potential offenders in infancy. It is one of our precious but illogical liberties that nobody, however young or criminally inclined, is hindered from embarking on parenthood — while some parents wishing to adopt are deemed "too old" — and the price we pay suggests a flagrant want of common sense. Mrs Lawrence said we need "a drive towards seeing that children grow up in a normal, stable family". But where should that drive begin?

"There are a lot of immature parents around," says Mrs Thomson. "Children need clear standards of right and wrong, to learn to respect other people and their property, and to respect themselves. You need to teach people how to be parents, and that means really early intervention. The courts have no magic wand."



Rosemary Thomson, JP: "I have seen their fathers and their grandfathers before them"

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Showing your true colours can dramatically affect your life

## A real pain in the neck

**SIGN OF THE TIMES**  
by Chris Campling

**I**t comes to something when the cashier in your local supermarket doesn't want to take your money. It comes to something even more when a taxi driver considers not picking you up, and you looking both sober and able to pay. And what it comes down to is a scarf.

My Tottenham Hotspur scarf, actually. Ever since I got it, both to signify my allegiance to the boys from White Hart Lane and, more importantly, keep my neck warm, total strangers have felt encouraged to insult me.

The cashier was the first one. I'd had the scarf for only a couple of days when I went into Safeway for a few bits and pieces. I was reaching for my money when he said: "It says in my contract I don't have to serve Spurs fans." My, how we laughed. Arsenal git.

Then the security guard at work, rather than letting me through the gate, held his fingers up in the sign of the cross and went into paroxysms of hissing and calling on God to smite the Antichrist. West Ham git this time. The taxi incident was the most recent. I flagged the cab, told him my destination, and he said: "I almost didn't stop for you. I didn't have to ask him why. Arsenal git again."

The silly thing is that I don't really like football all that much. I have an affection for Tottenham, born when, at the age of ten, I cast around for a team to support and chose them because they were the best team in the country, which shows how long ago that was. But I don't get suicidal when they lose, or ecstatic when they win, and the only piece of Tottenham memorabilia I possess is this rotten scarf.

Basically, I wear it to keep my neck warm. But, increasingly, in order to annoy other fans who are smaller than me. During the day, and in crowded thoroughfares, I wear my Tottenham scarf with pride. At other times, such as when travelling on evening buses, or when Arsenal are playing at home (we live close to Highbury) I put up with a stiff neck on the basis that at least it isn't broken.

The sad thing about it all is that I should be in a position where wearing a scarf could, on the wrong night and in the wrong place, see my life threatened. The other sad thing is that I, a married man with children, should continue to wear the scarf. I can afford to buy another one, in a nice, non-inflammatory colour, but I don't. What am I trying to prove? That I'm as tribal as the next man? That beneath this meek and mild exterior lurks a hooligan just begging for a fight. Neither. I think it has something to do with freedom of association, with overtones of Sixties-style individualism and, OK, because it also makes me feel a bit of a lad.

Chris Campling and scarf: "Basically, I wear it to keep my neck warm, but increasingly in order to annoy other fans"

كنا من الأصل

# The lost art of the calculated insult

Deliberate rudeness is on the decline. Which is a pity, because a really clever and amusing put-down can add greatly to the gaiety of nations, Philip Hensher writes

In March 1946, shortly after the publication of *Brideshead Revisited*, Evelyn Waugh received a fan letter from a female American reader. It offended him in some way. The letter itself hasn't survived, but Waugh's reply has. It wasn't to his fan, but to her husband: "Dear Sir," Waugh wrote. "I shall be grateful if you will use whatever disciplinary means are customary in your country to restrain your wife from writing impertinent letters to men she does not know."

A gentleman, we are told, is someone who is never rude by accident. That's fair enough, but it says nothing about gentlemen — or anyone else, for that matter — choosing to be rude. Everyone agrees, perhaps a bit too readily, that everyone is ruder than they used to be. Nobody queues, perfect strangers abuse each other in the street, drivers — if you believe the newspapers — are constantly hitting each other in fits of road rage. But if unplanned, ordinary rudeness, offensiveness and even violence are on the increase, what might be on the decrease is the phenomenon of being deliberately rude. It's something worth defending: a really amusing and sharp put-down might not be much fun to receive, but it adds greatly to the gaiety of nations.

The proviso is that an insult has to be clever, accurate and amusing. Lawyers have to explain quite often that vulgar abuse doesn't constitute a libel: nor does it really constitute a property satisfying

insult. It's surprising to learn that Waugh was quite hurt by a fellow member of White's who told him nobody would talk to him "because you sit on your arse looking like a stuck pig". With all this, it isn't surprising that there are fewer really successful insults than failed attempts at it.

A prime example of a failed insult was Michael Heseltine's



Princess Margaret wrote a splendidly offensive letter

crack at the Conservative Party conference: it was all right for Sir James Goldsmith, "with his hacienda in Mexico, his palazzo in Venice and his chateau in France" to run down the country because he could always leave it. "For those of us who will have to stay here..." Heseltine went on, to almost visible disquiet. It was an attempt at deliberate rudeness which failed because it was based on a false and incredible contrast between a

fast-lifer called Sir James Goldsmith and a simple fellow called Michael Heseltine. Everyone knows that Heseltine is a rich man, too, and could live anywhere he wished. Making the joke still more dubious, it isn't Goldsmith but Lord McAlpine of West Green who has a Venetian palazzo; a palazzo, moreover, where Heseltine recovered after his heart attack. All in all, it was a gibe that made one wonder rather more about Heseltine than his target.

Perhaps rudeness should be left to the experts, like Waugh, who, on learning that a tumour Randolph Churchill had had removed was benign, remarked that it was a triumph of medical science to find the one part of Randolph that wasn't malignant, and then to remove it. Or Dame Ivy Compton-Burnett, whose insults often came unsuspected directly from what seemed like kindness. "Have you read Olivia Manning's new novel?" she asked Elizabeth Taylor once. "It really is full of very good descriptions. Quite excellent descriptions. I don't know if you care for descriptions? I don't."

Into this class of experts many of the Royal Family reputedly fall. Tales of the Duke of Edinburgh relishing his own bluntness are too many to be entirely apocryphal. A previously unfancied outsider in the rudeness stakes is Princess Margaret, whose splendidly offensive letter to the Duchess of York in re-



Evelyn Waugh was expert at insults, yet was offended when told nobody would talk to him because "you sit on your arse looking like a stuck pig"

sponse to a bunch of flowers weeks ago, to the nodding agreement of half the nation. She certainly has the Hanover knack of an icily blasting put-down; a friend still trembles at the memory of an after-dinner tête-à-tête which she brought to an abrupt end by saying: "Would you be so kind as to move six inches in that direction? It's rather hot in here."

For sheer rudeness, nothing much rivals the wars of artists and musicians, who, licensed by bohemianism, have always been rather given to vulgar abuse and bad behaviour. Brahms, managing to insult the entire Danish nation by commenting in public that it was a shame one of their most treasured works of art wasn't in Berlin, is quite typical. The on-stage wars of divas have become so legendary that it's sometimes assumed they are exaggerated; not so. It's not for

nothing that, after Kathleen Battle's last appearance at the Met in New York, the backstage staff were seen wearing T-shirts with the words "I survived the Battle" on them. Idle gossip has it that the stellar cast of one very grand opera production currently running in London are at complete loggerheads, owing to the soprano's unbreakable habit of farting at precisely the same point in the second act.

Artists can certainly give it, but often prove less accomplished at accepting bile. A constant complaint is that critics are more vitriolic than

they used to be. It's not true, as a quick leaf through the works of celebrated reviewers of the past will show. No music reviewer now is anything like as vicious as George Bernard Shaw at his most acidic; nobody now would admit, as Shaw once did: "If I take the trouble to criticise the Covent Garden performance of *Hamlet*... my object must be understood to be vindictive rather than artistic." Not many reviewers allow themselves to be as horrid as Dorothy Parker, who called *The House Beautiful* the Play Lousy, or Cyril Connolly, who

once began a review "Sixty books out of every hundred published are novels, nine out of those sixty are here, three out of that nine are readable, none out of the three is worth seven and sixpence". Anyone who has ever reviewed books will recognise the truth in the assertion, but not many would have the nerve, or the sharpness of phrase, to write it.

The trouble with rudeness is that you'd better be right, or witty. A few months ago, an overworked music critic found a bit of unaccustomed attention when he poured scorn on a soprano in a new production

at ENO. Alas, he hadn't noticed that the subject of his disdain had dropped out and been replaced by the singer he heard. The recuperating soprano wasn't amused to find herself attacked when she had been at home all the time; nor, one imagines, was the critic once the libel lawyers had got to work. Better to emulate Dame Barbara Cartland, who was reportedly once asked by an interviewer if she thought the class barriers had broken down. "Of course they have," she is supposed to have said. "Or I wouldn't be sitting here talking to someone like you."

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# Philip Howard



**Our best guide to the crumbling of society is thousands of years old**

Crazed illegal immigrant mum slays kids in cheating hubby's secret love nest. Naughty sex romps in royal palace spark bloodbath axe massacre. Infanticide romanticised. Jason's Eastern jinx. Have some Madeira, Medea. Or better still, try Pruzac. You ripa dese pants, and I keel you. "Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turn'd, Nor Hell a fury like a woman scorn'd" - Congreve. "It's a man's, man's, man's world" - James Brown, wailing and warbling godfather of soul. Opportunist politicians crusading on the runaway horse of civic disorder should be reminded that the fabric of society has always been threadbare. The flimsy fence between civil order and bloody anarchy needs constant repair. And the United Kingdom today is far safer and more civilised than almost all societies in the past. Certainly infinitely less barbarous than Corinth some fairytale time BC, when Medea took an axe and gave her babies 40 whacks. A modern producer would talk of the chilling story of a woman scorned, where passion becomes obsession and fatal attraction turns to psychopathic lust for vengeance in a murderous yet compelling endgame. Euripides wrote it better. And the Actors of Dionysus bring it to the Turtle Key Arts Centre at Fulham next week for a fortnight.

Despite its pine furniture shops, football teams and silly name, Fulham is no odder a place to find tragedy than Thebes or Elsinore. Human nature is much the same around all the suburbs and down the ages. And tragedy tests human nature in extreme conditions, for the education and entertainment of the spectators. Perhaps it also helps us to understand our own natures better. The young actors of Dionysus, just down from university with classics degrees, take Greek tragedy in their own contemporary English around schools and universities and provincial theatres. The National Lottery Fund has given them money to buy a van, and they are supported by Friends of Classics and other interested parties. They perform these ancient stories in everyday English with such conviction that they bring tears to the eyes and make the hair at the nape of the neck bristle. There have been no reports yet of infants dying of fright and women going into premature labour, as they are said to have done when Aeschylus brought on the chorus in the *Eumenides*.

So what on earth are these bright young things doing travelling around the United Kingdom putting on tragedies about extravagant happenings in a quite alien world 25 centuries ago? They would find more of relevance by reading Politika pamphlets. Now, who there. Actually not, Medea and the other great tragedies may be ancient, but they are not obsolete. They deal with the most powerful emotions of love and hate, rage and revenge, passion and fear, pity and forgiveness. The story of the older wife traded in for a younger and smarter model is not yet as dead as the ancient Greeks. And man's inhumanity to man, and woman, is still a contemporary topic. These exemplary stories come from an alien society, but their morals have a terrible strength that lasts down the centuries.

Wringing our hands about the state of society is a British hobby. We deplore the morals of the young, the sleaze of our politicians, the nastiness of foreigners and the decadence of the age. Well, so did those bloody ancient Greeks. And despite the popular gloom we actually do some things as well as they have ever been done. Stubbs' huge portrait of Whitejacket has hung in the National Gallery so that it dominates the room and catches the eye from six rooms away. That absurd artistic hero, the horse, shows 24 different shades of brown, and its fiery eye makes you even more determined never to ride. Our galleries and museums are the best in the world. So though this is a counter-intuitive view, are many of the techniques of our popular newspapers, and a decreasing amount of our television. And our actors are still the best. Not just those in the West End, but the pioneers and the enthusiasts, the Greek tragedians and the amateurs. They teach the old lessons of human nature for civil society far better than image consultants and probation officers.

# Family valued

SADLY absent from the Queen's Speech for the State Opening of Parliament this week was Norma Major, who had been hoping to take her place alongside Cherie Blair and Jane Ashdown in the gallery. Norma was unable to attend because her mother, a tremendous character by the name of Edith Johnson, has fallen seriously ill. And rather than sit through the Government's legislative programme, she felt she should be by her bedside. Edith, a diminutive and bespectacled, white-haired lady in her mid seventies, has always been fiercely proud of her son-in-law's achievements and apparently keeps a scrapbook with newspaper cuttings charting his relentless rise.

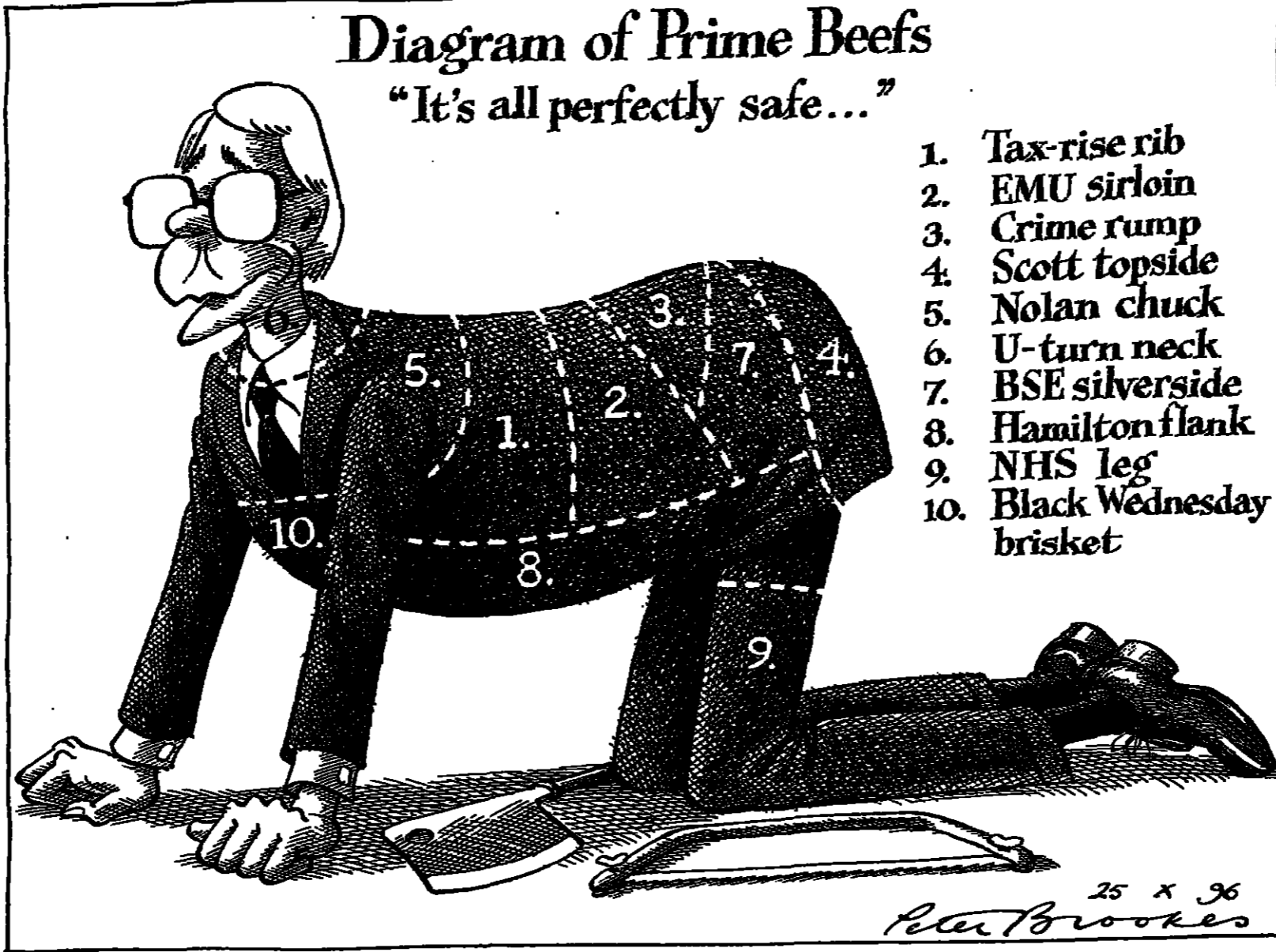
She brought up Norma on her own in southeast London after her husband died and enjoyed a good business career as a book-keeper before becoming a force to be reckoned with in the local women's institutes and discovering bridge. "She is a serial bridge player," says Peter Golds, a family friend, "a prodigious and enthusiastic player who has been known to indulge in the odd ocean cruise for the sake of the game."

Yesterday, Central Office said that Norma had been spending more time with Edith recently. I wish her the very best and trust that she will be back winning rubbers soon, after a full recovery.

**Irvine Welsh, writer of the gritty Scottish novel Trainspotting, has been taken at his word after endorsing John King's new book**



How do you like your beef, Mr Major, rare or extinct?



# Diagram of Prime Beefs

"It's all perfectly safe..."

- 1. Tax-rise rib
- 2. EMU sirloin
- 3. Crime rump
- 4. Scott topside
- 5. Nolan chuck
- 6. U-turn neck
- 7. BSE silverside
- 8. Hamilton flank
- 9. NHS leg
- 10. Black Wednesday brisket

# Most intimate swindle

Wickedness, by name is legion. In Britain, every day, may every hour, a crime is being committed. Every hour, do I say? Every minute, surely, and I would not argue if someone said it must be every second.

Yes, but "a crime" can be something from a savage murder to someone picking up a few coins dropped from a short-sighted lady's reticule and not giving them up. We must define our terms. Violence, surely, must be high on the ladder, and I think that we must differentiate between violence in the home and elsewhere. Then there is the confidence trickster: he too can be a mild nuisance or a real swine. (Are there still haysheeds in New York who are tricked into thinking they have bought Brooklyn Bridge? I bet there are.)

No doubt there have been many men and women who have stolen from their relatives. Indeed, huge sums have been wheeled out of their loved ones, and it seems that the larger the sum, the deeper people go into the mire. As for the City folk and the countless millions that go to and fro, dropping a few million into the wrong pockets, they should get their full and a bit over, but usually don't.

But there is something especially horrible when the thieves are deeply loved in the family and are the ones who are robbing those who love them. And worse yet when the family that is being robbed is not at all rich, but lives most modestly, and has to.

And that is the kind of criminal I am to discuss today. First, for what actually happened. There is a woman, her name Diane McManus, who wanted money. (Oh, money, money, money, when will human beings stop wanting that terrible and poisonous stuff? Never.) She wanted money, not for giving the children of the orphanage a treat, nor for giving thick new blankets to the poor men who sleep in doorways, nor for the rebuilding of a dozen leaky churches, but for buying herself a brand new sports car, costing £12,000. And for a new garage and new kitchen costing £40,000. And for things she cannot remember, costing £60,000. Now then, let us say that she wanted money, as most of us do. She was not poor, but she wanted real riches. So she went to her father and stepmother and told them that she was dying of cancer, a

The most hurtful deceit is the closest to home. But who would have thought that a daughter could feign cancer?

singularly powerful lever. The older couple sold their holiday bungalow to get funds for the dying Diane, but that was not enough. So the parents gave her their savings. Cancer, you know, is a dreadful malady, and it can take a great deal of money to sustain the sufferer. Our Diane needed more money, much more. Her father raised more money — these doctors do not come cheap, but for a beloved daughter, no sum is too great. More money, more money. (There was one point — it was tough and go for a few hours — when an actual doctor was getting close to examining the supposed sufferer: she told the family that that doctor had been killed in a car crash.) Then her father, practically ruined, yes, but my beloved daughter must have the most gentle rites — more money — thought that he would go to the Medical Negligence Board, for Diane had said that on one occasion there had been negligence. Diane said that they would get compensation automatically from the board, so he would not need to go to it, but he wanted to go, and told his daughter he was going, whereupon the whole edifice of lies and thieving collapsed into the sand — for of course if her father had gone to the board he would have discovered that there was no negligence, no cancer, no dying and no more lies. So Diane broke down and said: "There's no compensation. Dad, I've coned you, I've ruined your life." And indeed she had.

And then the headlines began: "Dying" wife coned her parents out of £100,000? "Cancer" lies cheat a trusting father and so on. It is no use saying that the parents were dreadfully naive. Have you ever been told that a deeply beloved member of your family is very slowly dying, and if you had, would you, do you think, announce that there must be an examination in case the sufferer is conning money out of the family? Anyway, however childish the wronged father was, it is not he and the rest of the family who need close examination. (The details of the examination will not take place for some time, because Diane has been put behind bars for three years, but there is plenty to go on.) For a start, there is the extraordinary matter of Diane's dreadful swindle. It is one very close to the clerk who steals the money, convinced that he will get it all back and more as the wheel begins to spin. But there is one enormous difference: in this case there is no wheel. Diane knew, and must have known, that none of all the money she was stealing would ever be brought back. I find it difficult to believe that she, knowing how it would and must end, nevertheless did it.

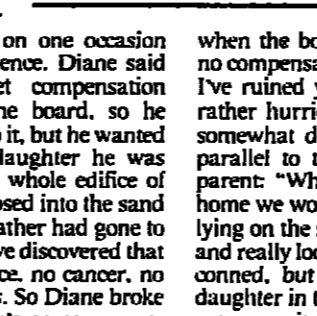
Take her words when the bomb had gone off: "There's no compensation, Dad, I've coned you. I've ruined your life." It sounds like a rather hurried elocution lesson from a somewhat downmarket teacher. Put it parallel to the remarks of the ruined parent: "When she was recovering at home we would visit, and she would be lying on the sofa covered with a blanket and really looking ill. I know I have been conned, but when you see your own daughter in that state and she says she's got cancer it doesn't enter your head that it's all a lie."

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I don't think that the focus was the £12,000 car; experts tell me that a £12,000 car is only a medium-money one. Perhaps there was no exact moment, and night after night she tossed and turned, and came back just as tormented in the morning. You see what I am getting at. The woman had never cheated or stolen; so the question is "At what point did she go over the falls?" And, of course, why? To start with, she knew that her thieving was from her family. Does that

# Bernard Levin



nothing like a Dame

# Making peace in Cyprus

Sir David Hannay outlines a blueprint for settlement

No one can have any illusions about the difficulty of achieving a Cyprus peace settlement. Many have tried and none so far has succeeded. Cyrus Vance, James Callaghan, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, Oscar Camillion, Joe Clark — the list is long enough to give the newcomer a feeling of awe before this Sisyphean task. The three visits I have now paid to the island since my appointment in May as the Government's Special Representative have left me in no doubts on this score.

Earlier this year Greece and Turkey were on the brink of open hostilities. On the island itself a whole generation has been brought up in ignorance and suspicion of the other community. The fatal incidents which occurred along the ceasefire line this summer are the bitter fruits. On the one side there are those who believe that everything was settled when the Turkish Army arrived in 1974; on the other, those who believe that the majority community has sole right to govern. As usual, the extremists draw strength from an increase in tension.

So why bother? After all, you might say "small island, not many people being killed, a fairly stable situation thanks to the UN presence, nothing compared to Rwanda, Somalia or Bosnia". But that is to ignore the fragility of the status quo. Cyprus is the forum for a full-blooded arms race. There is a greater density of modern weapons and men under arms in Cyprus than almost anywhere in the world. One side acquires armoured personnel carriers or modern battle tanks; the other does likewise. This is inherently unstable, with a constant risk of a mistake or a pre-emptive move.

One new element in the Cyprus equation should be positive for both communities: the prospect of accession to the European Union. This not only offers the opportunity of the internal market and other material benefits, but also a window on a new world. So far the European dimension has tended to be just one more cause of discord. Many Turkish Cypriots argue that the Cyprus Government had no right to apply for membership without their explicit consent. For everyone else, including the EU, it is a signpost to a more hopeful future. So that brings us back full circle to the need for a political settlement.

The easiest way in if a settlement can be reached in 1997 which will enable a new bi-zonal, bi-communal, federated Cyprus to negotiate the terms of EU accession. Most of the material for political settlement is already on the table, left over from previous attempts. Successful negotiations have revolved around the structure of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. This structure was first spelt out in agreements between the leaders of the two communities in the late 1970s, worked on by successive UN mediators and brought quite close to agreement by Boutros Boutros Ghali in 1992. What is needed now is a renewed and sustained effort to fit the pieces of that puzzle together: how should political equality be expressed in a new constitution; how much territory to the north of the ceasefire line should be returned; what arrangements should be made for those who became refugees in 1974?

Yet no political settlement will be reached unless it makes both communities feel secure. The present arrangements for each community provide an illusion of security, but only at the expense of the other's insecurity. The Turkish troops in the north make the Greek Cypriots feel insecure; and increasingly sophisticated armaments in the south and a defence pact with Greece must worry the Turkish Cypriots. No settlement can be based on the present security arrangements. Logically, the two communities should have a shared interest in ensuring that a political settlement cannot then be undermined by extremist elements on either side. Some recent ideas for progressive demilitarisation and the presence of an international military force, combined with the security guarantees devised at the time of Cyprus's independence, may offer a way forward.

There is always a tendency in Cyprus to look outside for a solution. If not the UN, or the US, or the UK, or the EU pull it off? The answer is none of the above on its own, but all of them together, and only if the two communities are ready to compromise. Of course it is easy to complain about too many cooks; but in Cambodia the way to a solution was found only when all the countries involved put their heads together. The same was true of Namibia. So why not Cyprus? There are no significantly divergent interests among the external parties. All would benefit from a settlement in Cyprus on the basis laid down by the UN Security Council. An equitable settlement in Cyprus could even draw some of the poison from Greece and Turkey's own relationship.

So could 1997 be the year of a Cyprus settlement? That will depend on the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus. They have the experience and the authority to do it. Both are democratically elected. Now both need to give a clear lead away from confrontation and towards a negotiated solution. It will also depend on outsiders, including Britain, which has been so intimately associated with every stage of Cyprus's modern history. It is in that context that Malcolm Rifkind is now planning the first bilateral visit to Cyprus by a British Foreign Secretary since 1974. So yes, 1997 could be the year for a Cyprus settlement. But I am not yet ready to say it will be. Sir David Hannay is a former Ambassador to the EU and the UN.

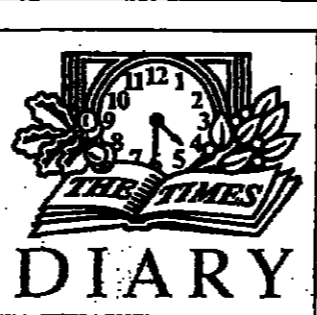
The Football Factory on its cover with the comment "Buy, steal or borrow a copy, just read it". Waterstone's in Edinburgh complains that more copies have been stolen than purchased, and are insisting that the publishers remove Welsh's advice from the cover in future.

# Two parties

HUBRIS seems to be the only hurdle left in President Clinton's path to re-election. Preparations are already under way for an enormous re-election celebration in Little Rock, the capital of Clinton's home state, Arkansas. With a budget of nearly £1 million, the party is to have a strong Southern flavour, with hog roasts, barbecues, music from the folk singer Arlo Guthrie, and a huge gospel choir — Clinton is a big gospel fan — to be led by the honey-voiced Aaron Neville. Bob Dole's Republicans are planning a couple of stiff Martinis and bed.

# Small beer

ALL IS IN flux at the House of Commons Members' tearooms. First, the portrait of the Queen has gone to be replaced by one of Chaucer. And secondly, the House of Commons portcullis motif is



# DIARY

no longer on the crockery. "The Queen's portrait is being retouched," says the catering department, "and the portcullis has disappeared because the Members have had their canteen services centralised so they must use the cheaper crockery."

# Court out

CLUBLAND is becoming either geriatric or lazy. Such is the decline in the playing of squash at the Lansdowne Club, just off Berkeley Square, once a temple of the game, that the committee is planning to shuffle off the sports facilities to an outside operator. Members meet next Friday to vote on whether to lease out the

four squash courts, swimming pool and fencing salle on a 25-year deal to Riverside, a sports operating company. Opposition is expected from the buffers' end of the 5,000-strong membership, which is not surprising, given that the plan is to charge them £50 a year to use their own facilities and to invite non-members to participate in the perspiring activities. George Clark Hutcheson, the club's deputy chairman, wails: "Everyone wants to do aerobics now, but we haven't got a proper aerobics room." A sorry state of play. What happened in fine claret and cigars?

●An extraordinary development yesterday at Alton Towers, where the Duchess of York, known to some as "La Freebiana", turned up unexpectedly with her two daughters. The Duchess paid for her tickets — a full £44.50 on her cranking credit card.

# On Everage

MOONSEE BONDS, the real-life Australian suburb of Melbourne which has long been home to the fictional and repulsive housewife Dame Edna Everage, has finally capitulated to the force of her personality. It is to open a museum in honour of its frightful "resident". Gladiosi are to be planted



Nothing like a Dame

around the building and there will be exhibits of the Dame's hideous glasses, wigs and gowns. Most Australians are appalled by Barry Humphries' creation, but the local council has given its blessing. P-H-S

سكنا من الاصل

Briton stabbed after clash in class



THE MOUNTAIN MOVES

Kohl has become the reluctant champion of German reform

Physically, psychologically and by his mastery of the political machine, Helmut Kohl fits Günter Grass's unkind description of him as Germany's "governing mass".

that there was no alternative to steep cuts in public spending on welfare and pensions. He promised equally steep tax cuts, but only by 1999 and only to be paid for by laying waste to Germany's thickets of tax exemptions...

AFTER HOURS

More out-of-school clubs would save the Government money

When Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, faces Peter Lilley in the Queen's Speech debate today, she will outline her ideas on one of those rare policies which voters of any political complexion should approve.

allowing for some exaggeration, there seems much scope here for helping them off benefit and into work. Mr Lilley has already allowed them to use some of their earnings on childcare before it is deducted from benefits.

RAZA'S TEST

A Pakistani stripling plays in the midst of men

How should we react to Hasan Raza, the 14-year-old Pakistani batsman who yesterday made his Test match debut? With rapture, of course, in the precocious achievement of this course...

mature more quickly, both physically and mentally? Or is it the case, as has sometimes been suggested churlishly, that their doctor-born certificates keep them younger for longer?

Trust hospitals need funds now

From Dr Ben Timmis and others
Sir, We welcome the Prime Minister's announcement of extra resources for the NHS in the event of a Conservative election victory next year (report, October 12; see also letter, October 22).

Drawing together nation's efforts to teach civic values

From Lord Weatherill
Sir, As Founder President of the Institute for Citizenship Studies I write to commend Frances Lawrence for focusing the attention of the public and the political parties (letters, October 23) on the issue of citizenship education in schools.

Testing for HIV

From Professor Michael Rosen
Sir, You report (News in brief, October 15) that a young anaesthetist died from an AIDS-related illness and that the NHS trust said "that there was no risk of his blood having passed to patients".

War widows' pensions

From Mr T. H. Summers
Sir, Newspaper reports suggest that widows of Japanese prisoners-of-war are in danger of losing some of their pension if their husbands smoked tobacco.

Water management

From the Director of Conservation of the RSPB
Sir, Six new reservoirs in east and southeast England are not the only solution to ensuring adequate water supplies into the next century (report, October 16) nor should they be the first.

Beryl as 'Maud'

From Mr Peter Nichols
Sir, I was disappointed your obituary of Beryl Reid (October 14) left out her incomparable performance as Maud in my play Born in the Gardens.

Matching the deed

From Mr John Brister
Sir, Listening to today's agriculture questions in the House of Commons, I heard the Liberal Democrat MP, Malcolm Bruce, refer to the Government's BSE slaughter policy as "a shambles".

Rumpole 'speculation'

From Mr Michael Belloff, QC
Sir, Your lead Diary item of October 22, "No briefs", states that "there is talk among the Rumpoles" about the adverse impact which the imminence of the general election is having on the legal practice of Cherie Booth, QC.

Millennium wail

From Mr John Gudgeon
Sir, What message, I wonder, are we sending to future generations if (according to your front page today) the best we can come up with to celebrate 2,000 years of supposed civilisation is a 500t Ferris wheel opposite the Mother of Parliaments?

A broad canvas

From Mrs Sarah Beaumont
Sir, I read with delight the musings of Messrs Cork and Ward (Arts, October 21; letter, October 23) on the coincidence of cut-offs between volumes of encyclopaedia which leave us with Leather to Macho and Back to Bolivia.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. Aaron-Thomas and Miss C.M. Mayo... Mr W.J.H. Spooner and Miss M.J. St Maur Shell... Mr R.J. Edwards and Miss L.A. Naylor...

Marriages

Mr G.A. Hawthorn and Miss H.M. Callaghan... Mr N.J. Myer and Miss J.R. Roberts... Mr W.H.G. Stammer and Mrs M.R. Sadlers...

Inns of Court awards

Major Scholarships 1996-97... Middle Temple... Inns of Court awards... BIRTHS: Johann Strauss the Younger...

Memorial services

Lady Cullen of Ashbourne

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of Action Research, was represented by Sir Greville Spratt, chairman, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady Cullen of Ashbourne...

Lord Tweedsmuir

The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr Peter Budge, Secretary to the Council on Tribunals, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Tweedsmuir...



Joe Mercer, racing manager, is 62 today

Birthdays today

Sir Robert Andrew, civil servant, 68... Sir Martin Gilbert, historian, 60... Sir Michael Lawrence, former chief executive...

Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor

The Queen attended the annual service of dedication of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor...

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE October 24: The Archbishop of Canterbury was received in audience by the Queen... Her Majesty received the Bishop of Peterborough... The Right Reverend John Waive (Clerk of the Closet) was in attendance...

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Newbury Town Hall at 10.45 to mark the 40th anniversary of Newbury's Royal Charter... The Duke of York, as trustee, will attend a reception at the Royal Naval College Greenwich...

Nutracker Ball

There are still a few tickets available for the 1996 Nutracker Ball at the Hilton Hotel on Wednesday, November 27...

Baron MacLaurin of Knebworth

The life barony conferred upon Sir Ian Charter MacLaurin has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron MacLaurin of Knebworth...

Baron Whitty

The life barony conferred upon Mr John Lawrence Whitty has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Whitty...

BIRTHS

BARBARA - On October 23rd, to Emma (nee Gutteridge) and a son, Benjamin Philip.

DEATHS

BARCLAY - Sir Rodgerick Edward, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., died peacefully on October 24th 1996...

BIRTHS

ORCHARD - On 19th October, to Lucinda (nee Emrys) and a son, Philip Edward, a sister, Rosie, Peter and Benedict.

DEATHS

ACON - Lt. Cmdr Neville Acon, R.N.R., peacefully in his sleep on October 22nd 1996...

BIRTHS

MOVES - On October 20th in Switzerland, to Tina (nee Parvaz) and a son, Alexander, a sister, Lucy Claire, a son, Robert.

DEATHS

THORPE - On October 10th 1996, to Susan (nee Morrison) and a son, James, a brother for Mrs Susan.

BIRTHS

BUCK - Canon Frank Spencer on October 22nd 1996, beloved husband of Mrs Margaret Spencer...

DEATHS

CHATTY - Thomas William, Lt. Col. O.B.E. (ret'd) died peacefully at home on 19th October 1996...

BIRTHS

EVANS - The Reverend Kenneth Pevy Evans OBE, MA, for 22 years a Naval Chaplain...

DEATHS

GOSS - In loving memory of Laurence Joseph Goss, husband of Barbara and father of Penny, Michael and Christopher...

BIRTHS

HARRISON - John G., on October 22nd, peacefully, at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Cheshire...

DEATHS

LENSHAW - On October 23rd peacefully at York District Hospital, Millcote (nee Giddings)...

BIRTHS

MOORE - Joan, wife of R.A.A. (Bob) Moore of Rugby, after a long illness...

DEATHS

SEMS - Helen passed peacefully away on Monday 21st October 1996...

BIRTHS

PARRY - On 20th October, Gabriel, to the late Group Captain Richard PARRY...

DEATHS

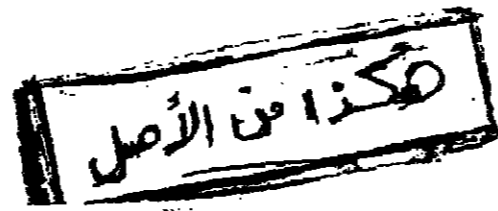
WADDE - On October 23rd peacefully in Harrogate, Gwendolyn Wade, 83...

BIRTHDAYS

WEAVER - Happy 40th birthday to my dear friend and special friend to Rose.

DEATHS

WHEAT - Kenneth died 26th October 1996...



OBITUARIES

LORD GLADWYN

Lord Gladwyn, GCMG, GCVO, CB, former Permanent British Representative at the United Nations and Ambassador to Paris, died yesterday aged 96. He was born on April 25, 1900.

The outstanding diplomat of his generation, Gladwyn Jebb was one of the architects of the peacekeeping international institutions of the postwar world. His key role in the drafting of the United Nations Charter made him the natural choice in 1946 to be Acting Secretary-General of the world body until the appointment of the Norwegian, Trygve Lie. Jebb followed this by doing much to mould into workable shape the vision of the Western European Union (WEU) evolving from the leading statesmen of the time. He also played an effective role in the discussions which preceded the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Jebb first became something of a public celebrity by shining in the dramatic Cold War duels at the UN Security Council, which were often transmitted via television direct into American homes in the early 1950s. Jacob Malik, the Soviet Representative, was the villain of these proceedings with his sneering anti-Western diatribes. Warren Austin, the American, was deemed too pompous and stuffy for the hero's role, frequently losing his temper. In contrast, Jebb could deflate the Russian charges with supremely delivered irony and ridicule. His icy contempt could be as glacial as Malik's and he could enhance it with barbs of sarcasm inserted with surgical precision. Americans were suitably impressed by his patrician insouciance, cynical wit and the consummate professionalism with which he could demolish Malik's bluster.

Hubert Miles Gladwyn Jebb came from a family noted for its academic distinction and its military and public service. He went to Eton and, after a brief period in the Coldstream Guards in 1919, went up to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took a first in history. At the age of 24 he entered the Diplomatic Service and served in Tehran before returning to the Foreign Office in 1929.

He then became private secretary to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Hugh Dalton. Later, he joined the first economic advisory unit in the Foreign Office and at the outbreak of war was in the key post of private secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, the

acerbic Sir Alexander Cadogan. The author of The Cadogan Diaries used to say that Jebb was not a very good private secretary; he was certainly far more interested in political ideas and policies than in the multifarious chores of a private office.

It was at this time that Jebb's career began to take on its distinctive character. When the Ministry of Economic Warfare was formed it was deemed necessary to attach a sufficiently tough Foreign Office man to this new department which would be dealing in affairs that the Foreign Office regarded as its own. Jebb was considered to be of the calibre required and became one of the principal advisers to Dalton, who was then in charge of propaganda and special operations as well as economic warfare itself. He managed to get on well enough with Dalton while at the same time satisfying his Foreign Office masters.

In 1942 he was given a job which, although at the time inconspicuous, was to lead to his later eminence. He was made head of a small and new section of the Foreign Office known as the reconstruction department, set up with the ambitious task of thinking out what Britain's policy should be at the end of and after the war. So it was that with more than half the war still to run, his course, bombs raining on Britain and the eventual outcome of the conflict by no means certain, Jebb became actively engaged in analysing the issues and drafting blueprints for the creation of the UN and other postwar international organisations. In 1943 he prepared the early drafts and then later in 1943 attended the conferences at Quebec, Cairo, Tehran, Dumbarton Oaks, Yalta, San Francisco and Potsdam at which they were hammered into their final forms.

The first draft of the UN Constitution was prepared under his direction. In August 1945 he was secretary of the United National Preparatory Commission, and in February 1946 he was, for a short time, Acting Secretary-General of the UN, organising the first meeting of the Assembly in Church House, Westminster.

He was Assistant Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign Office from 1946 to 1949, and in the latter year became Deputy Under-Secretary for Political Affairs. He was, at the same time, adviser on UN affairs and British representative on the permanent commission of the Brussels Treaty Organisation. He got on extremely well with Ernest Bevin, the



Foreign Secretary at the time, who is recorded as observing: "Whatever you may say about Gladwyn, 'e's never dull." It was when he was appointed the UN's Acting Secretary-General that Jebb first came to public view. He had by this time matured into a heavy man with a spruce, self-assured demeanour and a high degree of administrative efficiency. Fellow delegates praised his cool and impartial judgment. When he became Britain's Permanent Representative at the UN in 1950 he dealt with a number of difficult situations — among them the Anglo-Persian oil dispute — with great force and skill. The four years at the UN saw the Cold War joustings flare into the hottest postwar debates as war raged in Korea.

In 1954 he was appointed Ambassador to Paris, where he covered the end of the Fourth Republic and the return to power of General de Gaulle, and was involved in much of the negotiations for the formation of the European Free Trade Area. His natural brusqueness of manner was not always appreciated by the French but he established a good personal relationship with General de Gaulle which continued until the General's death. He left Paris in 1960 on reaching retiring age, and was the same year created an hereditary peer — something he had, slightly shamelessly, asked his friend, R. A. Butler, to secure for him some four years earlier.

As Lord Gladwyn he then became a director of S. G. Warburg & Co, but he was not cut out to be a merchant banker. In his later years in Paris he had become fully committed to the European idea and in 1960 threw himself, with characteristic energy, into the movement for British membership of the European Communi-

ties, of which he became a foremost advocate as chairman of the Common Market Campaign Committee, later combined with "Britain in Europe". He exercised considerable influence in and out of Parliament in winning support for a policy which by that time he had very much at heart. When in 1963 General de Gaulle vetoed the first British application for membership of the EEC, Gladwyn turned on him and waged a spirited campaign on him and waged a spirited campaign on the dangers of de Gaulle's foreign policy which he buttressed with two books, The European Idea (1966) and Europe after de Gaulle (1970).

Gladwyn, who had been concerned in the early negotiations for a North Atlantic treaty, was a staunch advocate and supporter of Nato, and was for a time chairman of the Atlantic Treaty Association and a governor of the Atlantic Institute.

When Britain joined the EEC in 1973 Gladwyn, most appropriately, became a member of the United Kingdom delegation to the European Assembly and vice-president of its political committee.

In 1972 he published an interesting and self-revelatory volume of memoirs in which he said he considered his qualifications to be in the realm of administration and the formulation of policy, and admitted disappointment at not becoming the Permanent Under-Secretary of State. Policy formulation was certainly his strongest point, and he was an admirable organiser. But perhaps he lacked the sensibility needed at the head of a great department of state and, on the whole, the positions he held were probably those best suited to his talents.

He was appointed GCMG in 1954, a GCVO in 1957 and received the Grand Croix of the Legion d'Honneur in the same year. Oxford conferred on him an honorary DCL and he also held honorary degrees from Essex University and Syracuse in New York.

To those who did not know him well, Gladwyn's rather formidable demeanour was sometimes taken for intellectual arrogance, and his manner was often thought to be somewhat overbearing. He did, indeed, seem to lack sensitivity in personal contacts, and occasionally in his public speeches or appearances. This was unfortunate, for he was by nature a warm and generous-hearted man, and a loyal friend and colleague.

In 1989 he suffered a severe stroke which badly affected his speech. But with courage and pertinacity he partially restored it, and from time to time continued to make interesting speeches in the House of Lords.

He married in 1929 Cynthia, the daughter of Sir Saxton Noble. She was an intelligent, charming and dedicated hostess, whose Diaries — published posthumously in 1995, five years after her death — almost rival those of "Chips" Channon. He is survived by one son, Miles, who succeeds to the barony, and by two daughters.

BRUCE MATTHEWS

Bruce Matthews, former managing director of News International, died on October 24, aged 71. He was born in Sydney on July 23, 1925.

IFTIT took the determination of Rupert Murdoch to launch and sustain the revolution in newspaper production which effectively began at Wapping in January 1986, then he was acting very much on the programme initiated and carried through by Bruce Matthews, for three years his right hand man at News International. Twelve months before that dramatic change, Matthews had suggested to Rupert Murdoch that the new, but unused, Wapping plant, built to provide modern conditions replacing cramped and antiquated printing operations in Bouverie Street and Gray's Inn Road, might be brought onstream with a new labour force.

The plan, on disused dock sites just east of the Tower of London, was a project set up in 1979. But the unions refused to

consider cuts in manning levels — and promises of proper arbitration procedures to eliminate the endless stoppages which had made Fleet Street the centre of trade union restrictive practices.

Matthews had been involved in endless discussions with union officials, all fruitless, but he felt there might be a way out by making use of a greenfield site with no union presence. At that time Eddy Shah was in the process of establishing his new paper. Today, which was run with no union involvement: this had been made possible by the new technology of computerised production, long established in other countries.

Matthews believed it might be possible to sign up the maverick rightwing electricians' union, the EETPU, which was at that time striking out into new areas of union activity and leaving old TUC constraints behind.

Though with his colleagues he continued to seek agreement with the unions to operate Wapping with a smaller

labour force, he increasingly switched his attention to planning the alternative.

It was an extraordinary dual role — to continue running the strike-prone Fleet Street system which was still producing The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun and the News of the World, while at the same time establishing the fundamentally different ethos of computerised newspapers.

The story is now part of newspaper history in this country: AteX computers were smuggled into London from the United States, and electricians signed up at Southampton were bussed in to learn the skills of producing a newspaper.

Matthews was respected and liked by union leaders; they had worked with him from his Bouverie Street base, and knew him as an executive whose Australian background brought an egalitarian approach to his relationship with them. But whatever union leaders might feel personally, ingrained traditions were too

strong, and in the end negotiations broke down. The move to Wapping by all News International papers was made over the weekend of January 24, 1986.

Matthews shouldered the unprecedented responsibility of running — and distributing — four major newspapers from an untried plant with untried workers using untried methods, against a background of violent picketing and the hostility of an astonishing range of British society.

He saw the task through to its final resolution, when, after more than a year of picketing, the unions at last accepted that they would not regain their power, inside News International. (Other proprietors were meanwhile using the Wapping bridgehead to negotiate their own tough new terms with the unions.)

But the strain had taken its toll of Matthews and in November 1986 he retired. He continued on the boards of News Corporation and Eric Burdick. He continued working with the organisation Aus-

tralian Businessmen in Europe, bringing together Australians working independently or with major international or Australian companies. His contacts were valuable in keeping its profile high in the business world.

Perhaps appropriately for a man who in the end was to apply such drastic surgery to the ailing newspaper industry, Matthews had wanted to become a doctor as he grew up in Sydney. But his parents persuaded him to take a night school science course at Sydney University of Technology, while doing a five-year apprenticeship at Sun Gravure, owned by the Australian Associated Newspapers.

He became the first person in Australia to complete an apprenticeship in the rotogravure method of producing acceptable colour reproduction on poor quality paper — such as newsprint. At 22 he was given charge of the company's production operation, and his intimate knowledge of newspaper production was a strength throughout his career. Later he could talk production with the overseers in Fleet Street, and they understood that he talked from strength.

Australian Associated was bought in 1955 by the Melbourne Herald group, the most powerful newspaper publisher in the country. But Matthews found the new regime did not suit him, and he planned to join a Sydney advertising agency, a move which reflected an increasing interest in marketing.

The Herald & Weekly Times offered him a senior position running its extensive rotogravure company and magazine publishing division in Melbourne. This was to develop into a 14-year stay, leading to the chairmanship of The Argus and Australasian, the



HWT magazine and printing subsidiary. He also became general manager of The Herald, Australia's major evening newspaper.

Matthews first came to the notice of Rupert Murdoch in 1956, soon after the takeover of Associated by HWT, where Sir Keith Murdoch — Rupert's father — had been chairman. They completed a deal for the HWT to produce New Idea, a women's magazine Murdoch had recently bought.

In November 1971 Rupert Murdoch invited Matthews to London to join his News of the World operation. Matthews' early involvement was largely with Eric Burdick, the News of the World group Liverpool colour printer. When, in 1980, the circulation began slipping towards four million, he found the remedy. He was the driving force behind the launch of Sunday magazine, which immediately added 700,000 to circulation. He became deputy

managing director of News International in 1977 and managing director in 1983.

Outside newspapers his great love was the turf. Both the News of the World and The Sun advanced their coverage of racing under his encouragement, and he was a prime mover in the company's sponsorship of the Grand National for a period.

In the years before satellites made international live television part of everyday life, Matthews was a regular and enthusiastic host at gatherings of Australian expatriates viewing rushed film of any major Australian sport.

Cans of Forsters (suitably chilled), with traditional Australian meat pies were provided at various venues, most commonly Victoria House, for invited Australians — and intrigued English friends who had not at that stage sampled the "amber nectar" — to enjoy screenings

of the Melbourne Cup or the Australian Rules grand final from the MCC.

In 1987, Matthews joined Satellite Information Services, a satellite company 45 per cent owned by the Big Four book-makers, and set up to challenge the turf and greyhound race meeting broadcast service traditionally provided by Exchange Telegraph to Britain's 10,000 betting shops.

Exel was then owned by United Newspapers, which set aside £35 million for a campaign to update the service, and persuade betting shops to stay with it. But the old, monotonous radio link of a course broadcaster concerned primarily with basic detail for prospective off-course punters was one-dimensional by comparison with the SIS live colour television transmissions. From May 1987, SIS took over the contract to service the betting shops.

Matthews was named independent chairman, with the objective of reassuring the Australian punters who would not control the operation. At the same time 40 per cent of the consortium was placed with non-betting industry investors, at the demand of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, to ensure its independence.

In retirement Matthews lived in Belgravia, where he kept up his keen interest in sport. (When he had started his career with Associated Newspapers in Australia he had in fact contributed reports on cricket and rugby.) But, though London-domiciled, he maintained a keen interest in Australian affairs. He was closely involved in Melbourne's failed campaign to win this year's Olympic Games.

Bruce Matthews is survived by his wife Sylvia, and three daughters.

WANTED: 1940s clothing, hats, jeans, shoes, jewelry. 0171 229 9618.

TICKETS FOR SALE: AVAM, Phoenix, all theatres, Corina, LDs, 7. Turner. 0171 480 6182.

ALL WEST END Shows available. 0171 242 3990. 0171 480 6182.

MARKET: 100% of new and second hand planes for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. 0171 242 4123.

FOR SALE: THE TIMES - 1991-1994 copies available. 0171 242 3990.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: In lieu of flowers, donations to the RSPB.

EMBAASSY FLIGHT CENTRE: 01273 700737.

RENTALS: HOLLAND PARK, London W2. 0171 242 3990.

LEGAL NOTICES: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The undersigned, MARGARET CONNOR, does hereby give notice that she is the sole and exclusive owner of the property described in the Schedule below.

COMPANY NOTICES: CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED: 0171 242 3990.

MR. WILSON'S REPLY: THE TERMS OF AN ARMISTICE. Washington, October 23. — The Secretary of State makes public the following: From the Secretary of State to the Chargé d'Affaires of Switzerland, ad interim in charge of German interests in the United States. Department of State, October 23, 1918.

ON THIS DAY: October 25, 1918. Powers associated with her in a position to enforce any arrangements that may be entered into, and to make a renewal of hostilities on the part of Germany impossible.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY: The President's reply to the German people and having received the solemn and explicit assurance of the German Government that it unreservedly accepts the terms of peace laid down in his address to Congress of the United States on January 8, 1918, and the principles of settlement enunciated in his subsequent addresses, particularly the address of September 27, and that it desires to discuss the details of their application; and that this wish and purpose emanate, not from those who have hitherto dictated German policy and conducted the present war on Germany's behalf, but from Ministers who speak for the majority of the Reichstag and for an over-whelming

